

ay, October 5, 1998

Schiffer denies announcing end to catwalk career

BONN (AFP) — German model Claudia Schiffer denied Sunday that she had ended her catwalk career, saying she was only modelling for friends and family.

"I do not plan to retire," she said. "For me fashion is only a small part of my life, which has become wider."

"You might walk again someday"

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Christopher Reeve, 49, said Sunday he might walk again someday, thanks to advances in research that could again make him a equestrian.

Saturday, he said, he was "walking" on a treadmill, and he was "walking" on a treadmill, and he was "walking" on a treadmill.

Germany celebrates Presley walking date

BREMENHAVEN (AP) — Elvis Presley is said to be walking in more than 100 cities after he died in 1977.

Organisers of a festival in northern Germany said the day he was born, August 3, 1935, would be celebrated with a parade.

Attendance up, consumption down

MUNICH (AP) — Visitors drank less beer this year, Oktoberfest, the world-famous beer festival that ended Sunday, after a record 6.5 million people attended.

Final papal mass in Croatia draws hundreds of thousands

SPLIT (AFP) — Tens of thousands of Croats gathered Sunday for the final mass of Pope John Paul II, who held mass before he was elected pope in 1978.

The Pope's visit to Croatia was the second-largest ever, and he landed in Split on the second day of his visit.

He celebrated mass at the cathedral of St. Mark and was greeted by thousands of Croats.

He was then taken to the cathedral of St. Mark, where he celebrated mass.

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Palestinian official condemns Baghdad synagogue murders

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The Palestinian representative in Baghdad on Monday condemned an attack on an Iraqi synagogue by a Palestinian that left two Jews and two Muslims dead. "We condemn this odious crime committed by a Palestinian, which serves the interests of the Zionists and has nothing to do with the Palestinian cause," said Abdul Rahman told AFP, adding that the murders were intended to harm the brotherly relations between Iraqi and Palestinian people. "Iraqi Jews are Iraqi citizens, and any attack against them attacks Iraq's sovereignty and dishonours the noble struggle of our people," said Rahman, the charge d'affaires at the Palestinian mission here. Mohammad Ali Sharqawi, a Palestinian resident of Iraq who has an Egyptian passport, entered Iraq's last synagogue in use on Sunday and killed two Jews and two Muslims, Baghdad said.

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Three dead, 61 wounded in bomb blast in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — Three people were killed and 61 were wounded in a bomb explosion early Monday at a market near the northwest Algerian town of Mascara, the security services announced in a communique. An official statement issued earlier said two had been killed and 46 injured. Four of those wounded by the home-made bomb at Ghis market were in "serious condition," the previous communique said. "The security services accompanied by civil protection rescue services went to the scene immediately to bring care and necessary aid to the victims of this criminal act," the text said. The area to the west of Algiers has been the main theatre of violence blamed on Islamists who have lost most of their bases in Mitidja, close to the capital, in security sweeps. On Sept. 22, a home-made bomb exploded at a market in Taret, killing 27 people and injuring 125, according to the last official figures.

Turkey says ready to act against Syria if diplomacy fails

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey's and Syria's neighbours sought Monday to mediate a crisis that they feared could engulf the Middle East in war, while Turkey said its armed forces were ready to act against Syria should diplomacy fail.

Turkey accuses Syria of sheltering Kurdish rebels, allowing them to keep battling Turkey from cross-border bases after largely being neutralised on their home turf. "We are a country that loves peace," said Gen. Ilhan Kilic, chief of the air force. "But we do not let our national interests get harmed."

Suleyman Demirel echoed the peaceful part of the general's message. "We want no war," he said.

Turkey's Sabah daily reported Monday that the Turkish army has completed plans for possible military action against Syria with the first stage of the army's plans including an air strike on Syrian territory.

There was no immediate confirmation or denial of the report from civilian or military sources here.

The newspaper, however, said Turkey had readied plans for air strikes on Syria's anti-aircraft defences if Damascus did not renounce its alleged support for activities by Turkey's Kurdish rebels.

The plans call for strikes on Syrian radar, military airports and other installations as well as facilities and their launching ramps, the daily said.

Demirel and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak are to hold talks Tuesday in Ankara to seek a solution to the crisis.

Relations between Turkey and Syria have always been troublesome. Damascus is uneasy with Ankara's plans to build dams on the Euphrates River, a key source of water for Syria, while Turkey accuses Damascus of having designs on a Turkish border province, Hatay, which has a sizable Arab population.

Syria also feels threatened by the bolstering military and diplomatic ties between Turkey and Israel.

But Turkey has rarely used

such harsh rhetoric against Damascus. Turkey's tough stance against Syria appears part of a push to end a 14-year-old Kurdish insurgency that has killed 37,000 people.

The Turkish army has been relatively successful in fighting the autonomy-seeking rebels in southeastern Turkey, forcing them into neighbouring Iraq. It has also carried out frequent incursions into northern Iraq.

It has not been able to eradicate the rebels, however.

According to Murat Karayalcin, head of the parliament's foreign relations commission, the source of the problem lies in Syria.

"It is extremely difficult to reach success against terrorism as long as it is nourished by a neighbouring country," Karayalcin said, referring to Syria.

Cengiz Candar, a commentator for Turkey's Sabah daily, said any military move by Turkey would trigger a chain-reaction in the Arab World because of Turkey's close relationship with Israel.

"All Arab countries will mobilise along with Syria," Candar wrote on Monday.

Egypt, Iran and Jordan have offered to mediate in the crisis.

Although Turkish newspapers reported increased military activity along the border, there was no footage of such a reinforcement on news broadcasts, which were limited to interviews with Turkish trucks at the Syrian border. They reported minimal military activity on the Syrian side.

Seyfi Tashan, head of the Ankara-based Foreign Diplomacy Institute, noted Turkey's get-tough decision coincided with the recent U.S. airstrikes against suspected terrorism camps.

"The U.S. attacks on suspected terrorist targets in Sudan and Afghanistan have become an example for Turkey," Tashan told the Associated Press.

A military officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Turkey has the capability to stage pinpoint air raids in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of Lebanon, where it reports rebel camps.

Mubarak puts home agenda on hold to settle Turkey-Syria crisis

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has dropped plans to attend a ceremony Tuesday marking the 25th anniversary of the 1973 Arab-Israeli war to fly to Ankara to help settle a dispute between Syria and Turkey.

The government Al-Jomhuriya newspaper, confirming reports from Ankara, reported Monday that Mubarak will fly to Turkey on Tuesday for talks with President Suleyman Demirel after a similar peace mission Saturday to Damascus.

Tuesday's information ministry ceremony marking the October victory which was to be attended by President Mubarak and the first lady is adjourned to Wednesday, the Egyptian news agency MENA said. "This change is to allow for new engagements in the president's schedule."

On Oct. 6, 1973, Egyptian armed forces crossed the Suez Canal and recaptured parts of the Sinai peninsula which had been occupied by Israel since the June 1967 war.

Since Saturday, Mubarak has worked around the October 1973 war commemoration ceremonies to tackle the Turkish-Syrian crisis, amid reports of a Turkish troop build-up on the border with Syria.

He paid an unscheduled visit to Saudi Arabia on Saturday to discuss the situation with King Fahd and on Sunday flew to Damascus where he held two rounds of talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Mubarak told Assad the dispute should be resolved "by dialogue, discussion and contact, not by armed force and threats," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters in Damascus.

"A position of Arab solidarity with Syria is not hostile to Turkey, but tensions between them could harm relations between all the nations in the region," he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara said his country wanted to resolve the tension with Turkey "by diplomatic dialogue and not by threats." He also expressed dismay saying "nothing new" had occurred to fuel the crisis between the two neighbours whose relations have been traditionally strained.

In an interview with Al Hayat newspaper published Monday, Mubarak warned that a Turkish military strike against Syria would provoke an "unending" cycle of reactions and counter-reactions.

"I hope there will not be any confrontation. Syria is a brother-country and there are strong bonds linking us to Turkey," Mubarak said.

"I sent a message to Turkish President Suleyman Demirel dealing with this very sensitive issue and I told him that war would mean the beginning of an unending cycle of reactions and counter-reactions," Mubarak said.

Turkey has systematically accused Syria of backing Kurdish rebels and the two have been at odds over the waters of the Euphrates and Orontes rivers.

But ties worsened after 1996 when Turkey signed a military cooperation pact with Israel, setting off a verbal war of words from Syria.

Arab countries, spearheaded by Egypt, and non-Arab Iran have been supportive of Syrian fears that the 1996 Israeli-Turkish military accord could derail the Middle East peace process and trigger instability in the region.

Regent, Demirel discuss means to defuse crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday discussed with Turkish President Suleyman Demirel the latest developments in the crisis between Syria and Turkey, and conveyed to him His Majesty King Hussein's deep concern that the tension be defused and resolved through diplomatic means in the interest of Arabs and Muslims.

During a telephone call he made to the Turkish president Monday morning, Prince Hassan stressed that the crisis must be solved through a diplomatic solution that ensures good neighbourly relations between the two Muslim countries.

The Regent also expressed Jordan's appreciation for all efforts being exerted to defuse the tension and resolve the crisis through dialogue, underlining Jordan's principled position that conflicts must be resolved through peaceful means and in a manner that upholds the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of sovereign states.

Prince Hassan urged more efforts to resolve the crisis without resorting to a military confrontation, emphasising Jordan's readiness to offer its services to achieve this purpose and save the region from a new catastrophe that would threaten Arab and Muslim interests.

On his part, President Demirel said Turkey wants to see an end to all kinds of support to the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) so that it will no longer "carry out its terrorist operations against the Turkish people." He said these acts are



resulting in tremendous pressure on the Turkish people as well as in the killing of innocent Muslim Turks.

Demirel said the world community must realise the high human toll of the PKK operations against the Turkish people, adding that the Turkish position is based on international law and legitimacy.

Demirel inquired about the health of His Majesty King Hussein, wishing him a speedy and complete recovery and a safe return home.

Lebanon denies harbouring PKK militants for at least 18 months

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon insisted Monday that there was no basis to Turkish charges that Syria is harbouring Kurdish rebels of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in parts of Lebanon its troops control.

"There have not been any [Kurdish] partisans or members of the Kurdish Labour Party in Lebanon for at least a year and a half, following measures taken by Lebanon and Syria," Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz said.

Turkey's charges and menacing warnings to Syria over

its alleged harbouring of PKK bases are "unjustified" and "disturbing," he said.

The PKK did enjoy open use of a training camp at Helweh in the Bekaa Valley just two kilometres from the Syrian border in eastern Lebanon.

But twelve years after its opening in 1980, the PKK were forced to leave the camp in May 1992 following an agreement between Damascus and Ankara reached during a visit by the then Turkish foreign minister.

The camp was first handed

over to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) before being taken over by the Lebanese army four months later.

PKK officials say that hundreds of the party's activists and political commissars were trained in the camp before its closure.

But they insisted that all PKK members had been withdrawn to camps in mainly Kurdish areas of south-eastern Turkey and northern Iraq where the PKK is active.

Since the camp's closure,

but they are never conducted face to face.

A newspaper wishing to interview the PKK leader is required to send the questions and receive the answers through a courier assigned by the PKK.

The last PKK demonstration in Lebanon was held on June 2, 1997 and led to a stern rebuke from Lebanese leaders.

The leader of the PKK's military wing, Halil Atac, gave a news conference in a private home in part of the mainly Shiite southern sub-

urbs of Beirut controlled by the Lebanese Islamist group Hizbollah.

The PKK would "conduct operations against Israeli targets in Istanbul and elsewhere in Turkey as well as against enemy U.S. interests," he told reporters.

Atac's remarks prompted a stern rebuke from Lebanese President Elias Hrawi, who called on security forces to "put an end to the lapses which have allowed a Kurdish individual to pose all manner of threats to Lebanon."

Government apologises for any mistreatment of foreign workers, to continue drive to organise labour market

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The government on Monday apologised for any possible mistreatment that Asian foreign workers may have encountered during last week's crackdown on illegal labourers and described allegations that police used harsh methods during the process as only "individual acts" which would not be repeated.

Information Minister Nasser Judeh and Interior Minister Nayef Qadi told a news conference, however, the government would continue its drive to organise the labour market by enforcing existing legislation.

Qadi said up to one million foreigners, mainly Egyptians, Syrians and Iraqis — many working illegally — were living in Jordan, but only 62,000 had residence permits.

Tens of Asians, mainly Filipinos, Sri Lankans and Indians who were rounded up late on Wednesday complained they were mistreated during the crackdown and were detained without being allowed to contact their employers.

Most said they were taken to police stations even though they possessed legal working papers and the

Philippines ambassador to Jordan, Ruperto Dizon, said he had complained to the Foreign Ministry about the "mistreatment" of several of his nationals who were detained.

"The whole government apologises for any problem or disturbances that might have occurred," Judeh said. "But we will not apologise for implementing the law to organise the labour market because organisation is needed," he added. "If individual acts occurred, then I am sorry."

Qadi said that the crackdown will ensure the dignity and rights of all foreign workers and also apologised over the reported incidents and said the government was in contact with the countries of these nationals to explain the recent measures.

"If such a thing happened we apologise for it and our agencies apologise as well. I promise that such individualistic acts will not be repeated," the minister told journalists.

"I will not describe what happened as an arrest or detention. The time where detentions took place [in Jordan] has gone. What happened was merely a questioning process about whether these workers possessed legal work and resi-

dence permits," Qadi added.

"The raids targeted places where foreign workers are assembled in the capital. Police went to their houses and questioned them about their work and residence documents," he said.

The minister said that illegal workers will be given enough time, two weeks to one month, to correct their status in the country "and if they fail, then they will be deported."

"We will continue our campaign to organise the labour market in the country," said the minister, but "we will not harm any foreign worker who lives and works here legally," he added.

"What is required now from foreign workers and their employers is to correct their legal status in the Kingdom," the minister said.

"What we are targeting are those who entered the country as visitors or tourists and remained in the country for work," the minister noted.

Qadi said that Jordan has a "frightening numbers" of foreigners who add more difficulties to its economic plight and increase unemployment, which ranges from 17 to 27 per cent, among Jordanians.



Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi and Minister of Information Nasser Judeh address the media in Amman on Monday about a campaign to organise the labour market in Jordan (Photo by Youssef Al Allan)

Judeh said in the past several days, the total number of workers who sought to obtain residence and work permits jumped up from 56,000 to 62,000.

The interior minister noted that Iraqis were accorded special treatment because of the crisis in Iraq. "Our Iraqi brethren will be subjected to maximum care because we view their existence here from a

human point of view," the minister said.

"There are workers who we will discuss their cases one by one without any discrimination. There is a humane angle for this issue which we will take into consideration," Qadi added.

Qadi said government records indicated that 426,000 Egyptians, 130,000 Syrians, 110,000 Iraqis, 2,312 Sudanese,

3,689 Lebanese and 10,241 Palestinians have entered the country and still lives in the country.

He added that the list includes also 3,335 Sri Lankans, 1,686 Indians, 963 Bangladeshi and 1,013 Turkish nationals have entered the country.

The minister said no figures were available for those who are working and living in the country illegally.

Tarawneh: King starts 4th stage of chemotherapy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Faysal Tarawneh returned home Monday concluding a short visit to the U.S. where he met with His Majesty King Hussein and was reassured of his health.

Tarawneh said King Hussein returned to Mayo Clinic where he started the fourth stage of chemotherapy treatment.

In a statement to Jordan Television upon arrival, Tarawneh stressed that the King enjoys good health and high morale and that he is responding well to the treatment.

"The fourth cycle has already been started and the King is in good shape and his morale is so high. He gave us directives and we came here with a lot to do," said Tarawneh.

Tarawneh noted that he reviewed with King Hussein a number of issues which the government is planning to tackle, particularly poverty and unemployment.

He also said that he briefed the King on His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's meetings with representatives of various national and political

institutions and organisations.

In addition, he said, he briefed King Hussein on the government's measures and plans to implement the King's directives included in the Royal Letter of Designation.

Tarawneh said that King Hussein is following the situation in the Kingdom and is always in contact with Prince Hassan, the Regent.

In reply to a question on U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit to the region, the prime minister said: "There is a sense of optimism and it seems that they reached to a mature stage on the full package — of course — they are not referring only to what we call the 13 per cent territory dimension but there are so many other issues within the package and I think we are in the drafting stage now. But drafting itself is not an easy task."

He added: "There are a lot of details and we have to approach an appropriate language to conclude this chapter and we have always to remind ourselves that this chapter is not the final chapter. It is only the beginning of the final chapter."

Sudanese talks on humanitarian ceasefire extension postponed

NAIROBI (AFP) — The Sudanese government and southern rebels have postponed a meeting that was to have opened in Nairobi on Monday to discuss extending a humanitarian ceasefire, the Kenyan foreign ministry announced.

No new date has been set, a ministry spokesman said, adding that the delay "was decided by all sides concerned."

Major General Hassan Osman Dhahawe, Sudan's minister of state for social planning, was quoted by the Sudanese press Monday as saying such a meeting could not be held while fighting was going on in the southern state of East Equatoria.

Khartoum has accused Eritrea and Uganda of deploying forces in the East Equatoria region of south-eastern Sudan where the SPLA launched an offensive two weeks ago.

On Thursday, Khartoum decided to temporarily suspend all humanitarian flights to the south of the country,

where government and allied forces are fighting rebels of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and where civilians have faced famine for several months.

However, humanitarian sources in Nairobi said the suspension, which lasted only one day, was due to administrative matters and had nothing to do with the postponement of the meeting.

The Nairobi meeting, called for by the United Nations, had been agreed at peace talks in Addis Ababa under the aegis of the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD), and was to have discussed extending a ceasefire, currently set to expire Oct. 15.

The SPLA in mid-July announced a three-month "humanitarian truce" in the area worst hit by famine, Bahr Al Ghazal in the southwest, to facilitate the delivery of international aid, and the government responded by declaring a truce for the entire southern region.

Dhahawe, who is in charge of relief operations in the region, said his government "believes that it is not suitable to discuss an extension of the ceasefire" while two IGAD member states, Uganda and Eritrea, "are accused by the Sudanese government of planning and participating in the current fighting in East Equatoria."

The official also charged that the SPLA has been "exploiting" the ceasefire by moving its fighters from Bahr Al Ghazal to East Equatoria.

He said his government would discuss the ceasefire and humanitarian issues with the United Nations "after the current fighting in East Equatoria is resolved and the Sudanese territories are cleared of hurelings and mercenaries."

The Khartoum government has lodged a complaint with the U.N. Security Council against Uganda and Eritrea over the alleged intervention. The president of the Coordination Council for South-east Sudan, former rebel Rick

Machar, was quoted by the Alwan daily as saying the government had information that the SPLA was preparing an offensive in Bahr Al Ghazal.

Regarding the humanitarian situation, he said: "In the absence of a ceasefire, the relief operations will not stop altogether but will not be as they were during the past three months."

The Nairobi meeting was to have been chaired by Norwegian diplomat Tom Vraalsen, U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan's special envoy to Sudan.

The ceasefire, which began during the now-ended rainy season, allowed international agencies to organise a massive airlift bringing food and aid to famine victims.

The conflict pitting the mainly Christian and animist south against the Islamic military regime in Khartoum has claimed between one million and 1.5 million lives, directly or indirectly through famine and disease, in Sudan since 1983.



BUSTED: A Palestinian stands Monday with his hands against a wall in the Israeli-controlled sector of Hebron as Israeli paratroopers check his identity papers. The man was stopped and questioned for being on the street during a curfew which has been imposed on Hebron since a grenade attack last week which left almost a dozen Israeli soldiers lightly wounded. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrives today to try and pave the way for a summit meeting in Washington between Israeli and Palestinian leaders (Reuters photo)

Turkish-Syrian border town calm amid row

AKCAKALE (R) — Despite a growing row between Damascus and Ankara, Turkish villagers on the Syrian border brushed off fears of conflict on Monday and said there was no extra military activity along the frontier with Syria.

Turkish army and civilian officials have made repeated veiled threats of military action against Syria over its alleged support for Turkish Kurds fighting for self-rule in southeast Turkey.

"Life is continuing as normal here. We do not expect anything to happen," said Isa Aygöl, a resident of the mainly ethnically Arab town of Akcakale, from where the Syrian side of the border is

clearly visible.

Turkish newspapers have reported the transfer of military equipment and troops to the border area, and reconnaissance missions by low-flying Turkish air force jets along the 877 kilometres frontier.

There was no sign of military activity on roads leading to the border at Akcakale aside from regular guards on duty, who also said there were no changes in the local military presence.

Turkey's Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said on Monday time was running out for Syria to take concrete action to stamp out the activity of the Kurdish Labour Party

(PKK) rebels.

The Turkish air force chief issued another warning. "If the problem is not solved by diplomatic means then other methods come into play but the state and the nation do not want war," Ilhan Kilic told journalists at an airbase in Diyarbakir, near the Syrian border.

In Akcakale, one local man said people were still visiting their relatives on the other side of the border and some Syrians were visiting the town for shopping. Another resident said he did not expect any conflict because of Turkish military superiority. "It is Turkey which will decide whether there will be

war. Syria would not attack, because Turkey is more powerful," the 45-year-old man said.

NATO-member Turkey and Syria are also at odds over territory, water sharing and an informal military alliance between Turkey and Israel.

Their latest escalation in tension raised alarm in regional capitals.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Shara said his government was puzzled at the timing of the accusations as nothing had changed on the PKK issue. He said the warnings appeared to be due to recently reinforced Turkish ties with Israel.

Algeria holds joint manoeuvres with U.S.

ALGIERS (AP) — The U.S.S. Mitscher, a destroyer with America's Sixth Fleet, was leaving Algiers Monday after a three-day stopover that included joint manoeuvres — the first such operation since this nation's independence in 1962.

The Sunday aero-naval manoeuvres, 40 kilometres off the coast of Sidi Fredj, west of the capital, included search and rescue operations with the Algerian navy. More than 430 members of the Algerian navy took part, officials said.

The joint manoeuvres come amid what appears to be warming diplomatic and commercial ties between the United States and this North African nation, rich in gas and oil but long considered a preserve of its former colonial ruler, France.

The French-language daily El Watan said the manoeuvres underscored "the deepening degree of Algerian-American relations." NATO's southern European Commander, Adm. T. Joseph Lopez paid a rare visit over the summer to Algiers.

A delegation of the American-Algerian chamber of commerce recently visited Algiers, opening an office here, a sign that foreign concerns which have largely shunned Algeria over the past six years are reassessing.

Afghanistan's 1998 opium output grows 16 per cent — U.N.

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Opium production in Afghanistan grew 16 per cent to more than 3,200 tonnes this year, a United Nations study said Monday.

The study by the United Nations' drugs control programme showed an estimated 63,674 hectares of poppies, from which opium is derived, were cultivated during the 1997-1998 season, the study said.

The total land used for cultivation during the period was up nine per cent from the previous year, it added.

Basing its total production estimates on growers' own pre-harvest projections, the United Nations put this year's opium yield at around 3,269 tonnes.

The ruling Taliban Islamic militia control about 96 per cent of the country's opium harvest, the U.N. report said.

The militia has expanded its area of control over the country in recent months to more than 80 per cent with the opposition alliance in disarray.

The biggest increases in opium output were in Baghlan province, which registered a

184 per cent rise, and in Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces, the U.N. programme said in its fifth annual report.

Baghlan in the country's north was until August this year under the control of the anti-Taliban alliance until the Islamic militia's wave of military victories.

Kandahar, in the south, and eastern Nangarhar have been under Taliban control since 1996 and together account for about 72 per cent of Afghanistan's opium production.

'Displaced Sudanese face crisis without end'

By Anthony Shadid
Associated Press

MANDELA CAMP — Black clouds off the Nile River hang low over the sprawling Mandela Camp, bringing the storms that make an already wretched life even more miserable.

The clouds soon open up. Rain starts to fall.

And Barnaba Marial Marol, his cheeks hollow with hunger and his eyes heavy with sorrow, begins his story. "We ran away naked," says the lanky, 33-year-old Dinka tribesman from southern Sudan. "We had nothing. Nothing. We left our cows in the war zone, and we came with our hands empty."

With 75 other people, he rode a truck from his hometown of Rumbek to Wau, about seven hours away on bad roads.

From Wau, he boarded a rickety train north to Khartoum, arriving eight days later to join hundreds of thousands of others fleeing the fighting and famine of the civil war in the south.

He went to one squatter camp, then another. His mud hut was demolished by

bulldozers in 1995 — part of a government policy to raze illegal settlements around the capital — so he moved to the "Mandela camp," named for the South African president in an ironic gesture to hope.

His wife left him two years ago. "She wants to eat and I'm jobless," he says. "How is she going to stay with me?"

The trials have taken their toll. "I've become very old," he says.

Barnaba counts himself among a group the United Nations calls "war-displaced" — exiles within their own country with no right to own land, no right to build a home and little, if any, prospect of a future. Across a moonscape of shattered lives, they seek shelter in mud huts or "tukals," wigwags made of sticks, cardboard, sacks or plastic.

But in Sudan — with its famines, 15-year-old civil war and droughts of biblical caliber — the Mandela camp's plight, however bad, is not quite a calamity.

The conditions in the camp are too good to be called famine, yet too bad to be considered poverty. Rather, they are a

tolerable tragedy, a debacle repeated over and over, day after day, in countless places in the Third World, where disaster defines life.

The crisis of Barnaba and others will receive neither attention nor answers. The United Nations concedes their predicament is one of its biggest failures in Sudan, and its officials in Khartoum say the suffering could endure indefinitely.

It could become a forgotten disaster. Like the millions of Afghans expelled by war that has lasted longer than many of them have lived. Like the Kurds of southeastern Turkey, victims of a brutal rebellion fought ostensibly for their liberation. Like the 350,000 Palestinians in Lebanon who have no right to live outside a dozen camps of open sewers, tin roofs and a glut of guns.

Scenes from such calamities are relived daily in the Mandela camp. Water is delivered every day in blue, rusty tanks pulled by donkeys. Electricity is a luxury no one can afford.

Malnutrition is rife, especially among children, and malaria can become

endemic when rains deliver floods that wreck the shoddy houses and leave stagnant pools in which mosquitoes breed.

More dangerous are the demolitions. The government has dispossessed as many as 50,000 people in a matter of hours by tearing down their huts and houses. Since 1990, at least 39 people have been killed in clashes over the demolitions.

For Barnaba, that risk orders his life. He has nowhere to turn.

He is a Dinka, many of whom are at war with a national government dominated by the Muslim Arabised north, a regime that propagates its brand of revolutionary Islam in one of the world's most diverse countries.

"If you meet the family of your enemy, will you help them? We are the family of their enemy," says Barnaba, sitting on a mat in a hut of cracked mud walls, its window and door covered by burlap.

Near his bed, a boy urinates on the dirt floor.

"If the government cares, then why are we like this?" Barnaba asks.

Tehran warns it is running out of money

TEHRAN (AFP) — The Iranian government will run out of money to pay its employees by next week if parliament does not endorse an emergency plan to compensate for a \$6.3 billion budget shortfall, a senior official was quoted as saying Monday.

Mohammad Ali Najafi, the head of the Budget and Planning Organisation, issued the warning in a parliamentary debate Sunday on the government's plans to tackle the budget shortfall resulting from the collapse in world oil prices, Tehran newspapers reported.

He said the government was now selling each Iranian crude at \$10.7 a barrel against \$16 anticipated in the budget for the current fiscal year which runs from March 1998-

1999. "Because of this situation only 60 per cent of the revenues forecast in the budget have been realised," he said.

"So far we have been able to pay for 20 per cent of the expenses for development projects and 39 per cent of the current expenses."

"If the present trend continues, it is expected that the government will not be able to meet the rest of the expenses for this year," Najafi warned.

"If the fate of these proposals is not determined by Oct. 12, the government will not be able to meet certain financial obligations," he said.

"If the shortfall is not compensated, we will have serious problem paying wages to government employees, educational expenses or retirement

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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PROGRAMME TWO

15:10Cartoon — The Pink Panther
15:30Small Talk — "Quiz Show"
16:00Drama — Neighbours
16:30Doc. — Life Choices
17:00Doc. — Royal Blood
18:00French Programmes
— Les Coeurs Brûlés
19:00Le Journal
19:15French Programme
— Fractales
19:30News headlines
19:35 Step by Step — "We Are Going to Disney World"
20:00What Would You Do?
20:30Encounter
21:1Mini-series — The Ambassador (Ep.2)
22:00News in English
22:30Lonesome Dove
23:59 Feature film — Gentle Sinners
01:30End of T.X.

PRAYER TIMES

04:11Fajr
05:28(Sunrise) Duha
11:24Dhuhr
14:44Asr
17:20Maghreb
18:26Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
4632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
4622366
Anglican Church Tel.
4624853/4623481
St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox
Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church
Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church
in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la
Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel.
4646138
Church of Presentation, Sweifeh
Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church
Tel. 4624757
The English-Language
Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel.
4892679
The Baptist Church Tel.
4628052
The Armenian Catholic
Church Tel. 4771331
The American Orthodox
Church Tel. 4775261

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

ment of Meteorology
Temperatures are expected to drop slightly. It will be moderate with clouds appearing at low altitudes, and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, it will be relatively warm, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Amman17/29
Aqaba21/36
Deserts14/31
Jordan Valley20/34

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 31, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.
Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:
Ajloun24
Jerash30
Um Qays29
Madaba28
Petra30
Dead Sea36

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Abdulrahman Mustafa4744885
Dr. Issam Asmar4890504
Dr. Youssef Naser4751144

Dr. Nidal Asmar4751672
Al Asama pharmacy4637055
Abdali Tel. Repairs4636730
Shmeisani pharmacy4637660
Nairoukh pharmacy4623672

IRBID:
Dr. Amin Abu 'Idah244468
Al Quds pharmacy(—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Hafez Salfiti914144
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre4637111
Civil Defence Department5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue4630341
Civil Defence Emergency199
Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777
Fire Brigade4617101
Blood Bank475121
Highway Police5343402
Traffic Police4896390
Public Security Dept.4630321
Hotel Complaints5605800
Price Complaints5661176
Water & Sewerage Complaints 4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints4787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs4623101
Abdali Tel. Repairs5661101
Jordan Television4773111
Radio4774111
Water Authority5680100
Electricity Authority5815615
Electric Power Co.4636381
RJ Flight Information44-53200
Queen Alia Int. Airport44-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery5921199
The Islamic, Abdali5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5856856
Luzmila4630195
Khalidi Maternity4644281/6
Akileh Maternity4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity4642362
Malhas, J. Amman4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani5607071
Shmeisani Hospital5669131
University Hospital5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital5667277/9
Al-Ahli, Abdali5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen4771013/3
Al-Bashir4775111/26
Army, Marka4891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital5602240/50
Amal Hospital5674155
ZARQA:

ZARQA Govt. Hospital (09)983323
ZARQA National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99099

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (03)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:10Tehran (RJ)
06:30Damascus (RJ)
07:05Sanaa (RJ)
09:15Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
09:40Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:45Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:25Beirut (RJ)
16:00Cairo (RJ)
17:30Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
18:00London, Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights
08:00Cairo (MS)
12:00Riyadh (SV)
12:30Aden (Y)
13:25Munich (LH)
14:00Istanbul (TK)
15:10Bahrain, Doha (GF)
15:10Dubai (EK)
17:05Kiev (6U)
18:00Paris (AF)
19:25Tel Aviv (LY)
21:30Beirut (ME)
22:35Larnaca (CY)
22:40Amsterdam (KL)
23:55Bucharest (RO)
02:00Rome (AZ)
03:25London (BA)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:20 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA and proceeding to Marka Airport) (RW)
17:00 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)
18:20 Tel Aviv (arriving at QAIA) (RW)
22:25 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)

Other Flights
06:25Frankfurt (LH)
09:00Cairo (MS)
13:30Riyadh (SV)
13:30Aden (Y)
14:15Munich (YP)
15:00Istanbul (TK)
16:20Doha, Bahrain (GF)
16:20Dubai (EK)
18:05Kiev (6U)
20:10Tel Aviv (LY)
22:55Beirut (ME)
23:40Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
00:55Bucharest (RO)
03:00Rome (AZ)
05:35Larnaca (CY)
06:30Paris (AF)
08:20London (BA)

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:45Beirut (RJ)
08:00Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:10Vienna, London (RJ)
11:35Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)

Other Flights
07:00 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Airport) (RW)
16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Other Flights
06:45Beirut (RJ)
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16:30 Tel Aviv (from Marka Airport) (RW)
20:30 Aqaba (from QAIA) (RW)

Princess Basma calls for Arab solidarity to further human development

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Monday said solidarity and coordination among Arab countries are "crucial" to advancing human development.

In her address at the launching of the 1998 United Nations Development Programme Human Development Report in Bahrain, Princess Basma said: "The global trend has witnessed increased regional and sub-regional integration (in the Arab World), as in Europe and Latin America. Sharing a rich history, culture and common experience, our region has all the pre-requisites for fostering this approach."

Princess Basma noted that "the theme of this year's Human Development Report is consumption patterns and their consequences. It indicates that world consumption has expanded at an unprecedented scale in the 20th century, with private and public consumption expenditures in 1998 increasing to more than six times the levels of 1950."

"The report notes that the benefits of increased consumption have spread far and wide. More people are better fed and housed than ever before, and living standards have risen to enable hundreds of millions to enjoy housing, water, electricity, transport and leisure," she said.

But the Princess noted that despite the total increase in world consumption, imbalances in

resource distribution still occur.

"Although heightened consumption is an essential means for the enhancement of human development, any imbalance can create consumption patterns that are inimical to human development. This in turn undermines the environmental resource base, exacerbates inequalities and deepens poverty levels," she said.

She added that even in industrialised countries, certain segments of the population can "remain, much like their counterparts in the developing world, socially excluded and living in poor conditions" due to imbalances in resource distribution.

She also spoke on the achievements Arab countries have made and the challenges they face.

"The Arab countries have made significant achievements in promoting human development during the past 30 years, in terms of infant mortality rates, extension of basic immunisation, reduction of child malnutrition, enhanced primary and secondary school enrolment and access to basic services."

The Princess noted that according to the report, Arab countries developed "considerably faster" than other developing countries during the period 1970-90.

"Yet, despite these positive advances in the Arab region, there remain numerous challenges. One of the issues of concern is the worldwide economic recession and its impact not only on poverty and unemployment levels, but also on constricting the rates of development. Indebtedness and debt servicing affects many of the Arab countries, regardless of their income levels."

"Moreover, the population explosion and the disproportionate number of young people are putting increased strains on social services. Another problem is the slump in prices of raw materials, the mainstay of exports for many agricultural and non-agricultural Arab countries, on the international market."

Princess Basma called for the introduction of an annual report on Arab countries' development similar to that of the UNDP.

"I would... like to take this opportunity to propose the initiation of an annual Arab Human Development Report. This report can serve to monitor the developmental processes, focusing on selected policy issues, as well as highlighting successful country experiences and providing input for the formulation of human development strategies. It could outline practical targets and devise financial strategies for their implementation," she said.

The launching of the UNDP report was also attended by Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa and Richard Jolly, principal author and coordinator of the Human Development Report.

Regent urges parliamentary union to intensify Mideast peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday urged the International Parliamentary Union to intensify its efforts toward a breakthrough in the stalled Middle East peace negotiations with a view to ensuring a lasting and comprehensive peace.

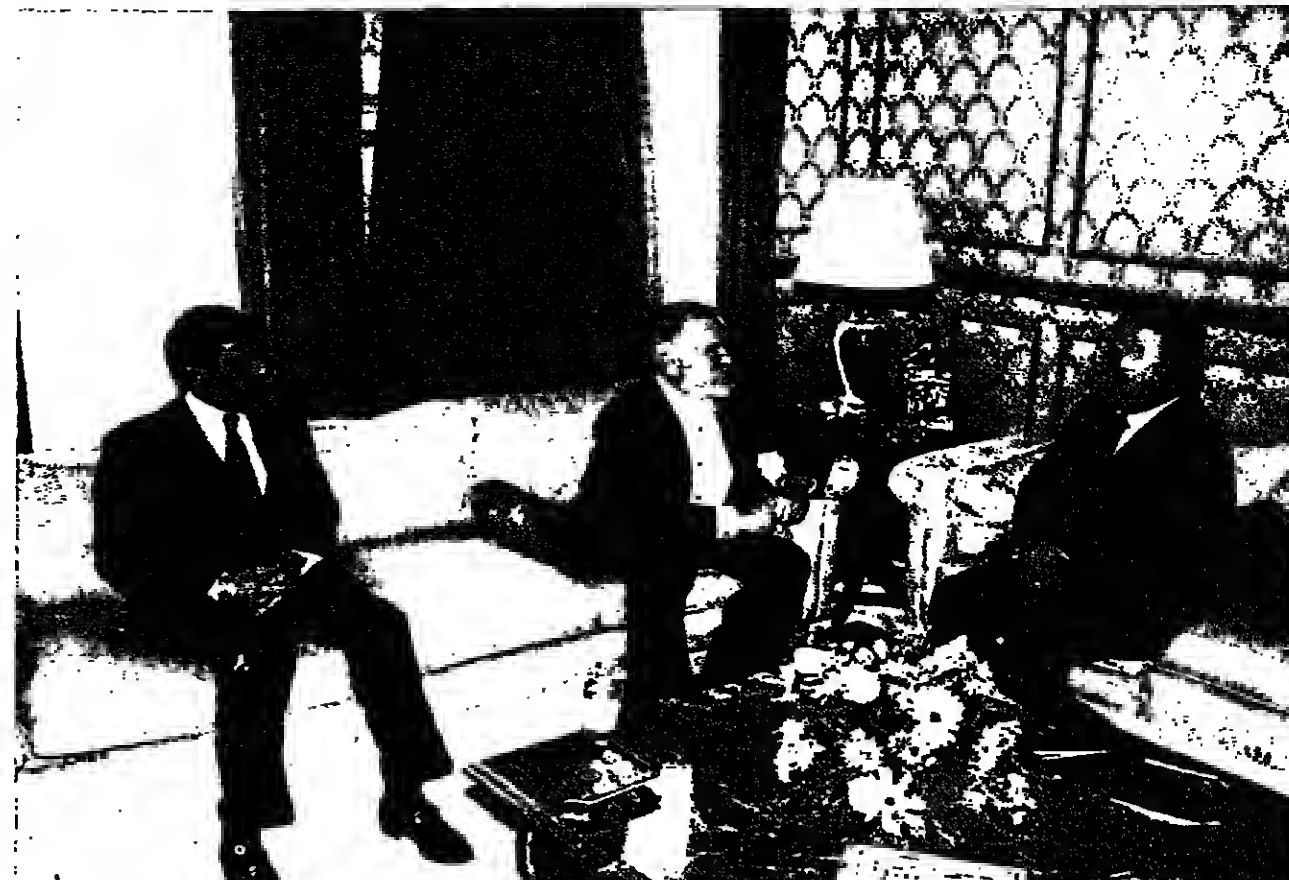
Prince Hassan made the call at a meeting with IPU President Miguel Martinez, with whom he reviewed the latest developments in the peace process and the European nations' efforts to further it.

Prince Hassan and Martinez also reviewed steps being taken by the IPU to set up a parliamentary council suggested by the Regent to combat "Islamophobia."

The Crown Prince underlined the need to combat this phenomenon at the various international forums, where he said the true nature of the Islamic religion and its principles can be portrayed.

At the meeting, the two sides reviewed the recommendations of the recent IPU meeting in Moscow, which called for respect of human rights, the meeting, which coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, reaffirmed the need for efforts to be intensified in pursuing the most ideal utilisation of water resources and the fight against organised crime.

Prince Hassan called on the world community to deal with issues related to human rights through a comprehensive perspective



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Lower House Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour, and International Parliamentary Union President Miguel Martinez discuss the Middle East peace process at a meeting yesterday (Photo by Boghos)

encompassing religious, economic and political rights, and not from the view of civil rights based on a particular culture.

The two sides discussed Jordanian-European ties and means of developing economic, political and cultural relations.

Martinez praised Jordan's efforts to establish a durable and comprehensive peace and build bridges of cooperation with the countries of the European Union, as well as the close

cooperation of Parliament with the IPU.

Also attending the meeting at the Royal Court were HRH Prince Talal Ben Muhammad, the director of the State Security Council, acting Foreign Minister Talal Al Hassan, Information Minister Nasser Judeh, European Union Representative in Jordan Yves Gazzo and other officials in addition to a number of European envoys in Jordan.

Also Monday, Martinez met with acting Prime Minister Jawdat Shoul to review IPU-Jordanian relations as well as current efforts to give impetus to the peace process.

Shoul stressed that Jordan is making efforts to ensure the success of the peace process to enable the Palestinian people to regain their rights and their lands.

Martinez briefed Shoul on the steps the IPU is taking with regard to the peace process.

Earlier yesterday, Martinez discussed issues of common concern with acting Foreign Minister Talal Al Hassan and a number of deputies.

Martinez said the situation in Iraq and the stalled Middle East peace process place a heavy burden on Jordan. He stressed the need for a new strategy to ease the situation.

Martinez, who will meet with Israeli officials tomorrow, said his talks will focus on the peace process.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Firas visits Karak governorate

QATRAHEH (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Firas Ben Ra'id, health secretary of His Majesty King Hussein, Monday visited Qatraheh and Sultani Dam in the Karak governorate, where he inspected services provided to residents in the two areas. Prince Firas stressed the need for the ministries of water and agriculture to look into the possibility of allocating 100 agricultural units to the bedouin population in Qatraheh and Wadi Al Abyad.

Labour minister announces schedule for work permit requests

AMMAN (Petra) — Labour Minister Mahdi Farhan on Monday set Saturday and Sunday of each week as days for non-Jordanian working illegally in the country to rectify their status. The two days are for personnel in establishments and firms where more than 10 non-Jordanian workers have no permits. Monday and Tuesday were allocated for requests from Arab and foreign workers employed by regional offices as well as domestic help, while Wednesday and Thursday were designated for receiving applications from other establishments and employers.

President's appointment endorsed

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Monday endorsing the appointment of Malek Atallah Kabarti as president of the National Centre for Energy Research at the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Symposium on EU legislation requirements opens next week

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Industry will hold a two-day symposium next week on Austria's experience in adjusting national legislation to meet the requirements of the European Union. The symposium aims at assessing Jordan's economic laws to ensure that they correspond with the provisions of the partnership agreement with Europe, which will take effect as of next year, according to a Planning Ministry official. He said the symposium, which will be attended by representatives of the private and public sectors, is organised in cooperation with the Austrian embassy.

Minister meets with Spanish ambassador

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji on Monday met with Spanish Ambassador Eudaldo Mirapeix to review bilateral relations and information exchanges in the field of tourism. They also discussed joint efforts to carry out the Amman Citadel project.



HRH Princess Alia attends the ceremony marking the 1998 Arab Child Day (Petra photo)

Jordan marks 1998 Arab Child Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Monday marked the 1998 Arab Child Day with a call for greater attention to the welfare of children to allow them to grow up in a secure environment in order to face the challenges of the 21st century.

Speaking at a ceremony held at the Royal Cultural Centre, Sima Bahhous, chairperson of the event's preparatory committee, said children's welfare is a collective responsibility and a contribution to the comprehensive and sustainable development of the country.

"Jordan takes pride in the achievements it has made so far for children, but further efforts are needed to protect these achievements and improve their quality of life and their right to education," said Bahhous, who is also executive director of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, which sponsored the event.

Bahhous added that "our children deserve support from the community in order to achieve their aspirations... and need an environment that respects their rights."

In her address at the ceremony, entitled "Children's Rights" and held under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor, Bahhous called on Jordanian society to give due concern and attention to handicapped children, orphans, street children, dropouts, and children victims of abuse and violence.

Children have the right to libraries, gardens, playgrounds and theatres in order to grow up in a healthy atmosphere, be creative and become useful to their community.

Also sponsoring the ceremony, which was attended by HRH Princess Alia, who deputised for the Queen, was the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The fund's representative, Adel Abu Rub, said UNICEF began a five-year programme this year in conjunction with the government designed to protect the rights of children and women and to improve their living environment.

Also on the occasion of Arab Child Day, the Jordan Society for Human Rights issued a statement yesterday urging the government to speed up the

endorsement of a law on children's rights.

The statement also called for measures to be taken to curtail the number of school dropouts, prevent the exploitation of children by factories and businesses, provide better care to children with special needs, carry out intensive programmes to guarantee protection for children and juvenile delinquents and pave the way for more kindergartens, parks and other facilities.

The society noted that in 1995, Jordan recorded 1,945 child abuse cases.

It said that due to growing poverty and deprivation, many children have reportedly been dropping out of school to find jobs, and despite the government's efforts, studies and surveys have found noticeable increases in disease among children.

The statement also called on the government and the public to express solidarity with Iraqi children and launch campaigns to gather badly needed donations for the Iraqi people, who are suffering under the crippling embargo.

Relatives of prisoners in Israel to visit Oct. 20 — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Israeli authorities have given permission for relatives of Jordanians in Israeli prisons to visit, Information Minister Nasser Judeh said Monday.

Speaking to reporters at a weekly press meeting, Judeh said the government has succeeded in securing the Israeli government's approval for two persons from each Jordanian prisoners' family to make the visit.

The visit is to take place on Oct. 20, he said, adding that the consul at the Jordanian embassy in Israel

will arrive in Amman to accompany the relatives to visit the prisoners at Ashkelon prison.

Last month, Jordanian Ambassador to Israel Omar Rifai was quoted as saying that in addition to 14 prisoners, other Jordanians are being held in Israeli jails for criminal offences. He did not specify the number.

Since the signing of Jordan's peace treaty with Israel in 1994, the Jewish state has freed 20 Jordanian prisoners.

During his meeting with the press, Judeh said that in July and August, the

Anti-Corruption Unit uncovered 51 cases involving corruption in various government departments and other organisations, including smuggling of archaeological artefacts and weapons as well as embezzlement.

The minister said that 37 people have been referred to the public prosecutor and that investigations are still under way.

Since it started its work in 1996, the unit has dealt with 657 cases, according to the minister, who said that 350 persons have been referred to the judicial authorities.

'Encouraging' signs on Palestinian-Israeli peace track — foreign minister

NEW YORK (Petra) — Foreign Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib on Monday voiced Jordan's appreciation of the Palestinian position on the U.S. redeployment proposal to break the deadlock on the Palestinian-Israeli peace track.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Khatib said there are "encouraging signs" regarding a Palestinian-Israeli agreement following the Palestinian leadership's acceptance of the American proposal. He called on Israel to comply fully with the U.S. initiative and reiterated Jordan's full support for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights on their national soil

through negotiations.

The foreign minister added that Jordanian-Israeli relations are governed by the 1994 peace treaty, which he said is part of a comprehensive peace settlement in the region.

Khatib called for resuming the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks from the point where negotiations ceased.

"When we talk about peace, we view it from a comprehensive perspective based on our pan-Arab position at the Madrid peace conference," he said.

In response to a question, Khatib said Jordan maintains continuous contact with the U.S. administration, in its capacity as one

of the two peace process sponsors, to ensure the resumption of negotiations on the Palestinian-Israeli track.

He voiced hope that the U.S. administration would continue its efforts to push the peace process forward.

Regarding Jordan's position toward Iraq, the foreign minister stressed the need to end the suffering of the Iraqi people as a result of the sanctions. He added that full compliance with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions and the complete and constructive cooperation with the U.N. is one of the shortest ways to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people.

Jordan, Palestine agree to cooperate in tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Palestine on Monday agreed to cooperate in tourism, particularly on religious occasions.

The two sides issued the statement at the conclusion of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian meeting headed by Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Akel Biltaji and his Palestinian counterpart Mitri Abu Aytah.

The two sides called for facilitating the movement of passengers and tourist vehicles via bridges and crossing points in anticipa-

tion of a major increase in the number of tourists visiting the region in the year 2000.

They also agreed on cooperating in such areas as training tourism personnel in order to provide quality services and to create job opportunities.

WHAT'S GOING ON

PIANO CONCERT

* Piano concert by Al-Lujayn Piano Trio Rula Nabil, Tariq Younis, and Tala Tounjani (sponsored by Goethe-Institut in cooperation with the Jerusalem Forum) at the Royal Cultural Centre on Wednesday Oct. 7 at 8:00 p.m. DART AL FUNUN

SUMMER '98 FESTIVAL

"Summer '98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabbal Weibdeh, to last until Oct. 8, include:
* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'sh at the Museum.
* 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hani at the Main House.
* Works by Iraqi artist Samir

Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.
* Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.
* Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'sh at the Museum.

LECTURES

* "Jordanian Travellers to Spain" (in Arabic) by Dr. Salah Jarrah at Instituto Cervantes, Jabbal

Amman on Wednesday Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m. (Tel. 4610858).
* "Islam and Democracy" by Egyptian Islamic intellectual Mohammad 'Awa at Abdul Hameed Shorman Foundation, Jabbal Amman on Wednesday Oct. 7 at 6:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

* Art of Arab calligraphy by Nassar Mansour at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (Tel. 4630128), until Oct. 23.

* Paintings by Iraqi artist Talal Mikha'il at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 8.

BOOK EXHIBIT

* Amman Seventh International Book Exhibit at the City Hall, Ras Al 'Ain, until Oct. 10.
* Works by graduates of the Arts Centre (including ceramics, paintings, and sculpture) at the centre, Mahmoud Irani St. (Tel. 5529619), until Oct. 8.

EU ministers discuss options over Kosovo

LUXEMBOURG (AFP) —

With NATO action on Kosovo possibly just days away, European Union foreign ministers were meeting here Monday to discuss tightening the bloc's sanctions on Belgrade and steps to deal with the refugee crisis in the province as it was created.

The EU meanwhile appeared to be banking heavily on U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke to deliver a stern ultimatum to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, whom he was to see in Belgrade later Monday.

Austrian Foreign Minister Wolfgang Schuessel, whose country is the current EU chair, said Holbrooke's message to Milosevic would be "the last" before a final decision is made on military intervention.

"I hope it will be heard," he told reporters here after the morning session, but added: "We have no indication in that direction."

Schuessel said, without elaboration, that EU representatives had spoken by telephone with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to coordinate efforts towards a diplomatic solution.

In Brussels earlier Monday, Holbrooke met with both NATO Secretary General Javier Solana and General Wesley Clark, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, saying he hoped his talks in Belgrade would help change Milosevic's mind.

"We hope to make it clear to President Milosevic and the people of Yugoslavia the extreme gravity of the situa-

tion," he said.

"While the level of fighting (in Kosovo) may have abated temporarily, the capacity for its resumption is there," said Holbrooke. "The situation remains fully as serious today as it was a week or two ago."

He goes to the Kosovo capital Pristina Tuesday to meet its ethnic Albanian leaders.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, arriving here mid-afternoon, said: "Our evidence shows that Milosevic continues to be active against the civilian population in Kosovo, and there are very alarming signs of an impending humanitarian crisis as winter closes in."

"We are clear that he must change his conduct and we are determined to send a very clear, firm message to him in that regard."

Spanish Foreign Minister Abel Matutes declared on arriving earlier: "We cannot continue to look the other way in the face of the massacres of women and children and old people that we are seeing."

But he cautioned that a military intervention against Serb forces in the troubled southern Yugoslav province would require "a satisfactory legal basis."

"International law must be respected," he said. The most recent U.N. Security Council resolution on Kosovo, Matutes added, "did not cover, in and of itself, an armed intervention." A report on the Kosovo situation from U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan due to be delivered in New York later in the day

"will be defining," he said.

"Milosevic should know that time is running out," said German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel. "If he fails to meet the European community's demands on Kosovo, we may have no choice but to move on to a military option."

Also up for discussion Monday was a Dutch proposal to close a loophole in the EU ban on the Yugoslav national airline JAT.

The ban, adopted last month, prevents JAT from landing at airports in EU countries, but it does not stop the airline from transferring its passengers to other companies in return for a share of the profits.

The Dutch proposal would outlaw such deals, which German, British and Austrian carriers have reportedly entered into.

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said the "diplomatic avenue is not yet exhausted," adding: "It is too early to speak decisively of a military intervention."

Italy in particular has expressed concern that it will have to bear the brunt of any massive flow of refugees from Kosovo and is pushing for a coordinated EU response to the crisis.

An estimated 300,000 refugees have already been driven from their homes in Kosovo by the Serbian onslaught. As the ministerial delegations met here, about two dozen Albanians stood a silent vigil outside EU headquarters with flags and posters demanding Milosevic's ouster.

Russia's opposition to NATO over Kosovo undermined by need for loans

MOSCOW (AFP) —

Russia's attempts to avert NATO military strikes against Serbia over the Kosovo crisis have been hamstrung by Moscow's dependence on the West as it seeks to recover from a deep economic crisis.

In a strongly worded statement, Russia warned Sunday that NATO military action to protect ethnic Albanians in the strife-torn province would constitute "a gross violation of the United Nations charter" and would "torpedo the system of contemporary international relations."

"Military intervention in the internal Yugoslav conflict, far from stamping out its causes, would strongly intensify the confrontation in Kosovo," an official statement said.

At the same time Moscow despatched a high-powered delegation to Belgrade to remonstrate with Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and urge compliance with U.N. Security Council resolutions on Kosovo.

The Russian team was led by Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, his counterpart at defence, Igor Sergeev, and Alexei Shcherbakov, Russia's deputy foreign intelligence chief.

Over 1,000 ethnic Albanians have been killed since Serbia, the dominant republic in federal Yugoslavia, launched a crackdown in February in the Serbian province of Kosovo, which is 90 per cent populated by ethnic Albanians.

Reports of massacres have fuelled international concern and compounded fears of a

humanitarian disaster this winter, with an estimated 300,000 Albanians living outdoors after being driven from their villages by Belgrade's offensive.

But while the international community sees Milosevic as the primary villain of the piece, Moscow has criticised both sides, accusing the Serbs of dragging their feet over a political solution to the crisis, and the Albanians of separatism and shunning talks.

Moscow has called on both sides, not just the Serbian authorities, to fully respect U.N. Security Council resolutions.

NATO's next move depends on a key report to the U.N. Security Council which U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan was due to present to the body later Monday.

The U.N. chief was to tell Council members whether he believes Belgrade is in breach of a Sept. 23 resolution demanding an immediate ceasefire, withdrawal of special forces, resumption of political dialogue between both sides and the return of some 300,000 refugees and displaced people.

The snap weekend visit to Belgrade by two senior Russian ministers had not been previously announced. Western diplomats in Moscow said it was unclear whether the trip had been a unilateral initiative or cleared with the Contact Group on ex-Yugoslavia (Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the United States).

Once there, the Russian ministers issued Belgrade with a blunt warning, telling

the authorities: "If decisive steps to amend the situation (in Kosovo) are not taken immediately, armed intervention blueprints prepared by NATO can be put into action."

But despite the warning, Milosevic has so far failed to indicate whether he is willing to comply with the wishes of his guests from Moscow.

Russia's twin-track offensive has enabled Moscow to show that it remains Belgrade's best, if not only, ally. But if push comes to shove, Russia has little chance of averting NATO airstrikes.

"If the U.N. Security Council was to decide in favour of military intervention, Russia would without doubt use its veto," said Vyacheslav Terekhov, a Moscow-based Yugoslavia analyst.

"That's why to avoid such a situation, the decision will doubtless be taken without a vote being taken in the Security Council. If there is an airstrike, Russia will protest and it will go no further," he added.

A Russian policy of "opposition and defiance for its own sake" towards the West would make aid to Russia's crippled economy "absolutely impossible," U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said at the weekend.

The warning will have been received loud and clear by a Russia gripped by an unprecedented economic and financial crisis which has seen ministers go cap in hand to international lending institutions for billions of dollars in fresh loans.



Irish Republican leader Gerry Adams holds flowers in front of Irish and Basque flags upon arriving at Bilbao airport for a one-day visit to Spain's Basque country at the invitation of Herri Batasuna (HB), Basque separatist group ETA's political wing. At left is HB's national committee spokesman Arnaldo Otegi (Reuters photo)

Sinn Féin leader arrives in Basque country

BILBAO, Spain (AFP) —

Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army (IRA), began a visit to the Basque country of northern Spain Monday and hailed the separatist ETA movement there for declaring a unilateral truce.

"I hail the Basque people who knew to take the opportunity to move away from conflicts, to move towards justice and to move towards peace," Adams said upon his arrival at Bilbao's airport.

In a short speech delivered in Gaelic then in English, he noted the simi-

larities of "peace processes tackling with conflicts" in both Northern Ireland and the Basque country.

Adams, accompanied by Sinn Féin's international affairs director Pat Rice, was greeted by Arnaldo Otegi, the main leader of Herri Batasuna (HB), the political wing of the Basque separatist organisation ETA.

ETA followed the IRA's example last month in declaring a permanent ceasefire.

British press reports Monday said Adams would lend his support to the truce and a political settlement in the region, where

elections are to be held on Oct. 25.

The report to the British daily The Independent said he hoped to visit Karmelo Landa, a member of the HB's executive and an old friend, who has been in jail since December. Landa attended many Sinn Féin meetings over the past two years while the peace process in Northern Ireland took shape.

Adams would also be meeting representatives of other moderate Basque parties, which HB joined for the first time on Sept. 12 to sign a joint declaration calling for peace talks to end the 30-year conflict.

Cambodian coalition talks deadlocked despite arrival of king

PHNOM PENH (AFP) —

Efforts to reach a deal on a coalition government for Cambodia ended in deadlock Monday, dashing hopes the arrival here of the revered king would help bring about a political compromise.

King Norodom Sihanouk arrived in the capital for the first time in nine months, as the second round of coalition talks between the ruling party of Hun Sen and the opposition FUNCINPEC and Sam Rainsy parties got under way.

A spokesman for Prince Norodom Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC said the talks — which lasted nearly three hours — bore little fruit.

"We agree that we don't agree on anything," said FUNCINPEC delegate Pok Thorn after the talks with Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party (CPP).

"The only progress is that we agreed to meet again on Friday ... but we are close to a deadlock," he added.

He said remaining disputes included who would fill the post of National Assembly chairman and other parliamentary positions.

The assembly chairman would be the acting head of state in the king's absence.

It was hoped the king's low-key return to Phnom Penh from his northern residence in Siem Reap, without the customary pomp and ceremony, would hoist pressure on the parties to strike a deal even though he kept out of the talks.

Diplomatic sources said he decided to come to Phnom Penh in answer to calls for help in the formation of a government. Last week, a top government official warned of a "political vacuum" if the king was absent from the country at such a critical time.

The CPP won the July 26 election but fell short of the two-thirds majority it needed in the 123-seat National Assembly to form a government alone. The two main opposition parties complain the election was marred by fraud and intimidation.

It was the king's first visit to the capital since he abruptly left in January this year after a brief and low-profile residence. Prior to that his last stay here was before the political turmoil of July 1997.

The 75-year-old king had been scheduled to fly Monday from Siem Reap to Beijing for three months of medical treatment. It is unclear how long he will stay in the Cambodian capital.

Prince Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy remain outside Cambodia. The prince is expected to return when the coalition talks are finished, while Sam Rainsy is continuing an overseas tour lobbying support against Hun Sen.

King Sihanouk has steered clear of Phnom Penh since a shaky power-sharing coalition deal between Hun Sen and Prince Ranariddh broke down amid violent clashes in July last year.

Accused of plotting to oust Hun Sen, the prince's forces were routed and he was forced to leave the country. The prince complained his ousting was a coup d'état against his leadership role in the U.N.-sponsored polls of 1993.

The king has intervened in the country's political impasse several times since the July 26 election.

He chaired inter-party talks and exercised his influence to help ensure the swearing-in of the National Assembly on Sept. 24 in Siem Reap, despite earlier opposition threats of a boycott.

In the first round of coalition talks, the CPP agreed to an opposition demand for a probe into alleged ballot-paper fraud, just one of hundreds of complaints arising from the polls.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Protein kills TB microbe

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A protein manufactured by the human immune system kills the bacteria that cause tuberculosis. That discovery could lead to new treatments for a disease that affects up to one-third of the world's population. An international team found the protein granulysin, made by disease-fighting specialists and called killer T cells, destroyed up to 90 per cent of the TB bacteria in lab cultures within three days. The authors of the report to Science say this is the first time an isolated T cell molecule has been shown to directly kill microbes. "The fact that this molecule kills the TB bacterium is very exciting," said Dr. Alan Krensky, Stanford University professor of paediatrics and chief of paediatric immunology and transplantation biology. The finding comes at a time when TB, once considered a scourge, is making a fierce comeback worldwide, as many as 2 billion people may be infected, and 3 million people — mainly children in poorer countries — die from the disease every year, Krensky said.

What makes a lime smell like a lime

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A Penn State chemist has identified a previously unnoticed component of what makes limes smell like limes. Mary Chisholm, associate professor of chemistry, has identified a balsamic, woody scented material, 7-methoxycoumarin, as an unexpected part of the lime fragrance. "It's a surprise because it doesn't come from the same class of chemicals, the terpenes, from which many lime do and is less volatile," she says. While limes are not a major part of the human diet, they are important to the beverage industry. Lime or lemon flavour or fragrance is used in such popular soft drinks as Coca Cola, 7-Up, Sprite and Dr. Pepper. Other applications include perfumes and the confectionery industries. By identifying all the constituents in the lime aroma, Chisholm hopes to eventually be able to duplicate it in the laboratory.

Heat shock protein protects brain

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Rat studies show a protein made in times of cellular stress can protect the brain from damage induced by a stroke or seizure. Researchers say the finding might eventually lead to treatment. The heat shock protein 72 (HSP72) is produced by cells that are stressed by heat, chemicals or lack of nutrients. The Stanford University scientists found that a modified herpes virus that makes the protein reduced nerve cell death when injected into rat brains. This is the first demonstration that gene transfer with this particular protein can protect the brain against injury in animal models, said Dr. Gary Steinberg, professor of neurosurgery and co-director of the Stanford Stroke Centre. Although the work is a promising advance, Steinberg emphasised that translating the new findings into a practical treatment for stroke and other forms of brain damage will require a more efficient way to deliver the protein. In their study, the researchers had to deliver the virus by injection into the brain, and the virus did not spread far beyond the injection site. But the current work does strengthen the scientific rationale for pursuing a treatment based on HSP72, he said.

Arthritis sufferers could spell relief

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A preliminary study indicates a dietary supplement derived from natural organic sulphur could provide relief from the pain of arthritis. The supplement is Lignisul MSM. The study of 16 patients found more than 80 per cent who took the supplement for six weeks reported an 82 per cent average improvement in pain relief, compared to an 18 per cent improvement reported by the control group getting a placebo. "Although this was only a preliminary study, it appears a more intensive investigation of MSM is warranted," said Dr. Ronald Lawrence, assistant clinical professor of the UCLA School of Medicine, who led the study. "Lignisul may offer a significant new nutritional substance for the control of arthritic pain as a safe, non-toxic method."

Neighbours object to nuns

JOLIET, Illinois (AP) — Three nuns in one home is tolerable, but put four together and watch out: wine and wafers, prayer sessions, droning organ music and who knows what else. It's enough to drive a neighbour crazy, or maybe drive property values in a whole neighbourhood. That's how Paul Masters felt when a group of sisters sought a zoning variance to allow a fourth into their home in this Chicago suburb. "This is a single-family residential area, and we just don't like to have any variances," said Masters, who has gathered 100 names on a petition against the request. Masters insists he is not anti-nun. He just wants to protect property values in an area where two group homes serving disabled adults already have been built. The Joliet Zoning Board of Appeals has approved the nuns' special-use permit and the matter goes before the full city council Tuesday. Tim Brophy, the councilman who represents the district where the nuns live, supports the permit: "These are nuns; how dangerous can they be?"

British and U.S. officials relaunch open skies talks

LONDON (AFP) — British and U.S. officials Monday launched three days of talks on the liberalisation of air links between Britain and the United States, a transport ministry spokesman said. Washington has demanded an "open skies" pact with Britain as the main condition for a proposed alliance between British Airways (BA) and American Airlines (AA). The London talks, the first formal discussions since February 1997, aimed at drafting "a comprehensive review" of current aviation agreements, the British transport ministry said. Previous talks foundered on U.S. demands for greater access for U.S. jets at Europe's airport hub, Heathrow. BA and AA have for more than two years planned to join forces to create a transatlantic web that would give them about sixty per cent of flights between Britain and the United States. The European Commission is expected to pass judgement on the link-up soon. In July, it gave provisional agreement on condition that the two companies cede 267 weekly landing slots at Looosoo airports.

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S. officials skies talks. Russian Space Agency spokesman Sergei Gorbunov said the deal wouldn't change Russia's obligations and its rights under the \$21 billion project. Russia would only lose research time for the period of the station's construction. He acknowledged that Russia badly needs money to complete the module that would house the station's crew. He insisted, however, that the deal doesn't mean that NASA is paying for the segment's construction.

World News



Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi (left) meets with Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro for talks after a mutiny by his Marxist allies left him facing the very real prospect of having to resign. Scalfaro, the supreme arbiter in Italian politics, is expected to ask Prodi to address parliament to determine whether his majority is salvageable (Reuters photo)

Human rights group set to highlight alleged U.S. abuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — For more than two decades, protection of human rights has been an integral part of U.S. foreign policy. Rarely a day goes by when the United States does not deplore rights abuses in a foreign land. Now, however, the country that so often sits in judgement of others is being judged itself. Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, plans a year-long campaign to expose perceived rights shortcomings in the United States. Amnesty International has spent most of its 37 years looking over the shoulder of heavy-handed despots, calling attention to political prisoners whose plight would otherwise go unnoticed. It continues to call dictators to account, but lately its horizons have been expanded. The U.S. campaign, to be launched Tuesday, is not the first time the group has scrutinized perceived rights deficiencies in the United States. As an example it has highlighted alleged abuses in U.S. prisons and other

deficiencies. But the upcoming campaign is the first comprehensive review of the United States or any other Western country for that matter. The group's most recent country campaigns have focused on China and Turkey. William Schultz, executive director of the American chapter of Amnesty International, said that if abuses occur in the United States, its credibility as a global rights watchdog is weakened. The group said it does not want to equate the United States with countries that routinely arrest and abuse dissidents, but it believes there are some areas in which the U.S. competes with other countries in the seriousness of violations. "Perhaps the most prominent of these is the death penalty," Schultz said last week. Capital punishment is legal in 38 states and was carried out 74 times last year. Amnesty International is opposed to capital punishment, which it considers an appalling abuse. Another target is the growing practice of using

electroshock sun belts to tame unruly prison inmates. The manufacturer of the belt, Sun Tech Inc., says it is used by about 25 state prison systems and 100 counties. Amnesty International contends the device inflicts great pain and can be fatal. In addition, Schultz said, aliens seeking asylum in the United States are sometimes summarily dispatched to county jails and locked up with common criminals. Amnesty International also intends to highlight the U.S. refusal thus far to sign the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child. The treaty has been open for signature since 1990, but neither the Bush nor the Clinton administrations has submitted it to the senate for ratification. Government lawyers are preparing reservations that will accompany the document when it is sent to the senate. The reservations will ensure that the convention does not infringe on the role of parents or impose any particular educational curriculum. Only the United States

and Somalia have not signed the document. U.S. officials say many countries sign such documents with no intention of abiding by their terms. Schultz contended that the United States has an international duty to keep rights abuses at a minimum. "When the U.S. house is not in order, it makes it far harder for the U.S. to take the kind of leadership role in international human rights that many of us in Amnesty would like to see it take," he said. State Department spokesman James Foley said the government has no problem with the Amnesty International probe. "For many years, Amnesty International has been a leading voice on behalf of human rights around the world," he said. "We welcome their scrutiny of human rights in the United States in keeping with our recognition of the universality of human rights and our openness as a democratic society. "We are proud of our political and judicial systems which we believe are the envy of the world."

Russia sells NASA its time on international space station

MOSCOW (AP) — The cash-strapped Russian Space Agency has agreed to sell its research time on the international space station to the United States for \$60 million so it can finish a long-delayed component of the station, officials said Monday. The deal to buy research time is a part of NASA's effort to bail out its Russian counterpart and prevent costly new delays in constructing and launching the 16-country international space station. The project is behind schedule because Russia lacks the funds to build the station's crew compartment. Russian Space Agency spokesman Sergei Gorbunov said the deal wouldn't change Russia's obligations and its rights under the \$21 billion project. Russia would only lose research time for the period of the station's construction. He acknowledged that Russia badly needs money to complete the module that would house the station's crew. He insisted, however, that the deal doesn't mean that NASA is paying for the segment's construction. "It's a separate contract that doesn't affect Russia's obligations to build the service module," Gorbunov told The Associated Press. "We expect to spend some of the money on the service module, but it's not like NASA ordering us to spend them on exactly that purpose." Representatives of the 16 countries participating in the project, including Russia, the United States, Canada and Japan, met in Moscow last week to discuss the construction timetable. Despite the delay in the service module's construction, they decided to carry out the first two launches of parts of the station as planned. A cargo module built by the Russian Khrunichev company, under contract with the U.S. firm Boeing, will be launched first on Nov. 20. NASA will follow in December with the launch of a second part, an American-built passage-way, Gorbunov said. The Russian service module will be launched in July, not in April as earlier planned, he said. Media reports said last month that NASA will ask Congress and the White House for approval to buy up to \$660 million in goods and services from the Russian Space Agency over the next four years to let it meet its obligations on the international space station. Gorbunov said the sum wasn't discussed at the meetings between Russian and NASA officials last week. He said, however, that Russia turned down a NASA proposal to buy two escape capsules for \$100 million. "The price they offered was too cheap. The real price to be discussed is between \$150 and 180 million," he said.

Italian PM considers confidence vote after Communist defection

ROME (AFP) — Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi Munday looked set to put his government's future on the line after he lost essential Communist support over a budget bill. Speculation was that Prodi would call a vote of confidence in parliament Thursday, where there were indications that some of the Reformed Communist Party MPs would still back his centre-left coalition government. In Italy's shifting political landscape, Prodi is believed to need the backing of at least 20 of the 34 Communist MPs to stay in office, analysts said. Prodi, who was scheduled to meet French President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin in Florence Monday and Tuesday, said he would try keep his majority together. But he indicated he had no plans to try to bring in more centrist support in order to stay in power. "I have always followed the same line ... and I do not intend to shift strategy or to get involved in political gymnastics," the premier told the Channel 5 private Italian television. Emerging from a meeting with President Oscar Scalfaro, the prime minister said he would take the matter to parliament, which is expected to convene Wednesday. Depending on the outcome of the debate, as well as on possible negotiations in the corridors of parliament, Prodi could call a vote of confidence Thursday. He would be forced to resign if the confidence vote went against him. The coalition, so far one of the most stable in post-war Italy, has been in power since 1996. Although the Reformed Communist Party voted Sunday to withdraw its support from the government, members were divided and party president Armando Cossutta resigned in protest Monday. Cossutta said he could not remain at the head of a party "which follows a policy of which I disapprove, which I consider to be wrong and reckless." He said that the vote to reject the government's 1999 budget bill, on a motion by secretary general Fausto Bertinotti, would have "serious consequences for the future of the party." The Communist party leadership vote was 188 in favour of the Bertinotti motion and 112 against. The head of the communist group in the lower house, Oliviero Diliberto, said Monday that the party would respect Sunday's decision. In October 1997, Prodi faced a similar situation in last year's budget vote when he offered his resignation before finally managing to convince the

Brazil's President Cardoso nears reelection

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) — Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso was on the verge of a widely anticipated reelection Monday, according to partial election returns. With almost half — 48.97 percent — of Sunday's vote counted, Cardoso was sailing ahead with a 30.49 percent support, against 34.81 percent for his closest rival, left-wing coalition leader Luiz Inacio "Lula" da Silva. Cardoso is just short of the magic number of 51 percent of the vote he needs to secure reelection without a runoff. If confirmed, Cardoso's victory will certainly be welcomed by international financial circles: Cardoso has pledged tough economic reforms, likely to be backed by a massive international bailout package, in a bid to halt a possible currency devaluation. "I believe the outcome of the vote will give the president more legitimacy, more political strength, it was a good victory," said Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Lampreia. Reelection on the first ballot should strengthen Cardoso's hand in negotiating foreign aid and imposing austerity measures that he has said were essential to battle the economic crisis, analysts said. In Washington, IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said the International Monetary Fund was awaiting a formal request for assistance from Brazil. "I could imagine that this could be done soon," Camdessus said. "It is certainly in the interest of Brazil to confirm its view rapidly to allow the international community to finalise its commitments." Finance Minister Pedro Malan, also in Washington over the weekend, dismissed speculation that a devaluation would follow the Brazilian elections. "There will be no maxi-devaluation, no mini-devaluation, no floating exchange rates," Malan said, adding that Brazil needed between \$16 billion and \$21 billion over the next 15 months. Cardoso has said he would impose a potentially painful anti-crisis plan, but has not outlined the proposals to date. Some analysts said he might decide to wait until Oct. 25 when several of his political allies go into a second round of voting for gubernatorial and congressional posts. "I voted Cardoso so I can remain unemployed," joked Katia Machado, 25, who lives in Rio's populous Rocinha slum. "But seriously, he has done a lot for the poor so we can buy food, so prices don't go up every day." Cardoso is credited with riding the country off

Police experts search Japan's suspected poison horror house

TOKYO (AFP) — Dozens of police forensic experts began a painstaking search of a house in western Japan where a couple are suspected of conducting an horrific 13-year poisoning campaign. Blue plastic sheets were set up on the roof and around the house in the western city of Wakayama to screen the building and prevent contamination as around 50 officers began the search which could take up to a week, a police spokesman said. Public television said officers would also dig up the garden and search through sewerage pipes for any trace of the use of poison. Authorities were also seeking any link to an arsenic-laced curry that killed four people and injured more than 60 at a July community festival in the Sonobe district of Wakayama. "I understand that suspects have been arrested in the case of attempted murder and fraud in Wakayama prefecture," Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi told reporters. "I have the impression that we have passed a major hurdle in the case," he said of the arrests, which gripped the country with almost blanket television coverage throughout Sunday. The couple, 37-year-old former health insurance saleswoman Masumi Hayashi and her 53-year-old husband Kenji, allegedly received insurance money worth more than 500 million yen (\$3.7 million) with the oldest poisoning case dating back 13 years, Jiji Press news agency said. They have yet to be directly linked to the curry killings. Instead, Masumi, who appeared relaxed in the frequent television interviews held before her arrest Sunday, is being questioned over the arsenic poisoning of a 35-year-old acquaintance. She is suspected of trying to kill the man to obtain 129 million yen in insurance payments. Instead, he survived the meal and spent four months in hospital until January this year, allegedly earning the woman 1.6 million yen. Her husband, who reportedly had access to arsenious acid from his former job as a

Russia's top cop prepares for any scenario in national protest

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's top cop, speaking on the eve of a nationwide protest, Monday urged the country's vast army of police officers to prepare for "any scenario" during the one-day strike. "We must be ready for any scenario and take adequate measures," Interior Minister Sergei Stepashin told police chiefs from Russia's 15 largest regions. "We must, within the framework of the law, prevent the protest demonstrations from deteriorating into mass disorder," he said in comments broadcast by the commercial television channel NTV. Trade unions estimate that nine million Russians will strike Wednesday and about 30 million people will take to the street in protest over pension and wage arrears. The Communist Party opposition will march under old Soviet slogans and urge President Boris Yeltsin to step down. Such nationwide demonstrations have fizzled out in previous years. But with the ruble nosediving sharply after almost three years of stability, sending prices rocketing, the nation's police force is preparing for the worst. More than 11,000 police officers and 4,000 interior ministry troops will be stationed in Moscow during the rally. But Stepashin, who will report to Yeltsin about the preparation later Monday, said the police will be careful not to provoke the marchers, particularly since many of them have also been hit by Russia's unprecedented economic crisis. "People have the right to express their point of view and their positions, especially since many really do live in very difficult circumstances," he said. "This includes the police, too."

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Inaction also breeds reaction

IT APPEARS that Belgrade once again got away with murder in Kosovo, even though atrocities were committed before the very eyes of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the U.N. Security Council. The Serbs, it seems, are very good at telling when the major powers are only bluffing when they threaten to intervene. Belgrade has once again called their bluff. NATO forces struck at the Serbs too late in the hour and after a series of acts of genocide were perpetrated. The horrific and sad history of ethnic cleansing and mass slaughter in Bosnia has thus been repeated in Kosovo with impunity simply because Western resolve has been shaken by disunity.

Moscow also helped Belgrade by "vetoing" in advance any Security Council resolution that would have authorised military intervention. The Russian government has hinted at a halt to cooperation with NATO as a ploy to make the alliance capitals sacrifice humanitarian intervention on the altar of political expediency and accommodation. The fate of Kosovo is now entirely in the hands of the aggressors. Not much of a new international order, with the meek powerless while the mighty call the shots.

While NATO leaders still contemplate whether to override Russian and Chinese objections and unleash punitive air strikes against Serb forces, Kosovo Albanians are mercilessly left to stew in their own juices. Is NATO waiting for more atrocities before it lifts its finger, exactly as it did in Bosnia? The lessons of Bosnia seem to be all forgotten.

Members of the international community, especially the mighty Western nations, cannot ignore the plight of the Muslim minority in Kosovo and expect their own not to become angry and resentful.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Faded Fanek discussed a recent lecture on the Arab oil situation given by an Iraqi oil expert, Waleed Khudori, who was pessimistic about oil prices dropping, because demand is low and supply is high. Even in exchanging information, there is no coordination between Arab oil states, the writer claimed. It was expected that the barrel price would reach \$100 by the year 2000, but now it is unlikely to exceed \$15 per barrel. According to Fanek, the expert asked why Arab oil producers are always responsible for balancing supply and demand balance and have to reduce their production while other oil-producing countries do not. Khudori was also pessimistic about future oil demand, because, the writer said, the oil industry suffers from bad management.

Al Dustour's editorial called for a decisive and fair solution to deal with the deadlocked peace treaty. In her upcoming visit to the region, U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has to use U.S. influence in order to push Israel — whose stubborn policies are obstructing the area's peace and stability — to yield to international will. U.S. credibility in the region can only be ensured in this way. The continuity of this situation, will see the Middle East suffer more terrorism and wars, said the editorial. Palestinians have offered all that they can afford to ensure the continuity of the peace treaty, and it is Israel's turn to do so. U.S. responsibility is as important as Israel's regarding this issue.

View from the Fourth Circle

The midnight knock...

THE CONTROVERSY over the late night raids last week on areas where foreign workers are known to live has raised legal and moral issues that strike me as compelling in terms of Jordan's political morality and self-image. I have not made a personal visit to the raided areas, but have talked to people who did visit the detained Filipinos in police stations, and people whose own homes or gardens were entered by the police late at night for the purpose of taking foreign workers into custody, even though the workers had their papers in order. Some were kept for a few hours and released when their employers arrived with their papers, while others spent a night or more in jail. The matter raises the following important points, in my view:

1. Clearly there has been some Ceausescu-style law enforcement going on in this respect, which is unacceptable by any standards. Detaining people with valid residence and work permits and then asking questions later is bad morality, low political culture, and sloppy law enforcement.

The government is not only right, but also obligated, to move decisively against illegal foreign labour in the country; but it is wrong to do so with banana republic-like methods when a) other options are available, and b) the situation should never have been allowed to get to this point in the first place due to the mistakes of past governments. The main question I raise is whether it is morally, legally and politically appropriate to use this style of rounding up human beings at midnight and herding them into police stations, often without letting them make a phone call.

2. Under discussion here is not only the government's law enforcement methods, but its political credibility in terms of its (very enlightened and welcomed) stated new commitment to transparency and accountability. The public needs to know how widespread this sort of action was, for this brand of law enforcement is being done in the name of all Jordanians, and for our own well-being. We have the right as a citizenry to know precisely how our law enforcement personnel behave. Their actions are taken in the name of a sovereignty that is rooted in the principle of democratic account-

ability.

The prime minister seems to have staked his government's entire incumbency on this point, for which he and his ministers deserve our respect and appreciation. This is an opportunity for his government to translate words into action.

We need to know: was the round-up of foreign workers, regardless of their legal or illegal status, a common practice, or were these isolated incidents? Did the majority of foreign workers get treated decently or was the majority treated in this heavy-handed, indiscriminate manner? We should be careful not to accuse the entire law enforcement apparatus if the excesses were the work of a few enthusiastic wildmen.

If it proves to be that we do have a problem with over-zealous law enforcement, that problem should be addressed with the appropriate mix of humility, discipline, re-training, and instituting more strict accountability mechanisms. Is it possible for the justice ministry to set up a phone number for people to call if they were subjected to what they think is inappropriate and unacceptable behaviour by the security forces?

And perhaps the parliamentary security or public freedoms committee could set up a task force to investigate some of these incidents to ascertain the truth? Again, I emphasise, the government's motives and right to act are not in question; but its manner of behaviour is very much in question.

This is due to two reasons: a) midnight knocks on the door are a morally repugnant manner of law enforcement, do not necessarily guarantee success, and in any case should not have been necessary had the last dozen Jordanian governments been more diligent and efficient at labour law enforcement, and, b) police behaviour of this sort against illegal foreign workers sets a bad precedent that could spill over into other fields, targeting Jordanians or foreigners, if we do not have sufficient safeguards in place. We have compounded the inefficiency, mediocrity and almost total absence of past enforcement of labour laws by adding to our political legacy the concept of the midnight knock on the door. This troubles me as a Jordanian, because I know

there are more humane, efficient, and sustainable ways of achieving the urgent goal of legalising the foreign labour market.

3. To whom are the police and security services accountable in our democratically accountable and increasingly transparent system? If excesses were committed, what is the mechanism to rectify the problem and reprimand or punish those who may have acted in an inappropriate manner? Did anyone, in fact, act in an inappropriate manner, or does the majority of Jordanians accept what happened last week as reasonable and just retribution for those illegal foreign workers who abuse our hospitable and relaxed nature? The two major elements in effective political accountability are the handling of fiscal expenditures and the behaviour of police and security personnel.

The former is relatively well covered in Jordan; the latter, as last week reminds us, may still require some work. It would be useful now to devise a public political mechanism to assess the moral, legal and political dimensions of last week's police raids, so that any possible wrong actions can be addressed quickly, and, more importantly, are not repeated in future. If the public consensus is that nothing wrong happened, then so be it, and we live happily with the consequences of our own moral and political values. If there is no real accountability in cases like this, however, the whole concept of transparency and democracy becomes rather less credible and meaningful than we'd like it to be.

Seeing as these two principles have been a cornerstone of the Tarawneh government, this seems an ideal opportunity for the government to step forward with moral vigour and political self-confidence and tackle this question head-on, with neither fear nor apology. I hope it will rise to the challenge, maintain Jordan's good name, and set impressive new standards of law enforcement that are at once humane, effective, and morally beyond reproach.

Rami G. Khouri

The need for ethics in business

Kamel M. Moghrabi is professor of business administration at Mu'ta University

THE ADVENT of management revolution of the early twenty century and its historical transition to "professional management" has caused labour relations to surface a critical issue — how to improve supervisory skills from manipulative to participative relationship. Yet, in the fervour for industrialisation and technological advancement businessmen have overlooked the declining rate of change in their "basic value" system which intrinsically guide them in the pursuit of excellence in accordance with values and a moral code of natural law. Unfortunately, businessmen have not slowed down their rush towards higher technologies in order to reevaluate the status of their moral code. The value issue of business derives from the pervasive social, hence moral, nature of business and cannot extrapolate merely from its abstracted economic function.

The dissatisfaction with scientific and bureaucratic paraphernalia with its inherent mechanistic engineering approach — neglecting individual differences, informal groups, inter and intra personal relationships, and social responsibility — hastened the rise of a

modern movements of human relation. Thus, the erroneous assumptions that human behaviour can be controlled through monetary incentives and the use of the "carrot and stick" technique, have lost their momentum. Furthermore, the blurred image of the "organisation" in today's literature is primarily caused by the misuse of the "value concept" taken out of its proper context.

In fact, people in both industrialised and underdeveloped countries are dissatisfied with the actual performance of present materialistic economy. The great depression of the 1920s, the present financial meltdown and stock market disaster of Japanese and South East Asian countries, and the ongoing scandal in Washington are all evidence of the improbability of values of our organisations. Our material organisations have placed the "job" at the centre of life and everything else must revolve around it. God's higher values that preserve the wholeness of man's personality — mentally and physically — have been dismissed as intangibles. The values of prevailing economic systems are warped and, thus, our morality can hardly be identified with the doctrine of the Holy Scriptures. We need to envisage a new faith around which our life experiences can be integrated and become meaningful.

Recent literature is voicing deep concern for this organised dilemma. Values are viewed as one set of limitations which constrict administrative action and their consideration is becoming an important aspect of administration. The answer to this perplexity lies in a consensus on values that can only be achieved by the preservation and the application of the code of ethics and the basic values of natural law, and this should be the desired objective of organisational processes.

Representatives of societal systems — ethical technocrats — should monitor organisational outputs and make the necessary corrective actions for the preservation of basic moral code. On the other hand, organisations should remodel themselves to accommodate the value concept. This configuration not only promotes the useful bureaucratic variable exogenous to natural law but, also, team work, task groups, and less formally rigid structures which will hopefully lead man and his organisation toward richer, deeper, and more satisfying experiences governed by the irrefutable code of basic values that God has ordered for "humans" on earth. In God's Moral Code we trust should be the philosophy for exoneration of our human, particularly business, organisations.

LETTERS

Tips on negotiating

To the editor:

AS AN Israeli Jew in the U.S., I've noticed that one of the most pervasive stereotypes westerners apply to both Jews and Arabs is that we are cunning and crafty traders. However, if the negotiations underlying the "Peace Process" are any indication, both sides have proven that this stereotype is completely without basis in reality.

If I were a negotiator on the Arab/Palestinian side, these are the tactics I would employ:

I would accede to whatever conditions the Netanyahu government wished to impose. In this way an agreement would be reached quickly. Then, I would lavish effusive praise on Netanyahu, and proclaim far and wide my appreciation of his concern for the well-being of the Palestinian people.

Immediately the Israeli right wing would point to the agreement — underscored by Arab praise for Netanyahu — and his government would fall. New Israeli elections would be called, and, in all likelihood, a centre/left coalition would come to power, with the Labour Party as the senior partner.

Such a coalition would negotiate with the Arabs on an equitable basis, and it would immediately recognise a Palestinian state.

In any case, the results of this strategy could certainly be no worse than the present reality.

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Palestinian refugees: The mountain to climb

Salman Abu-Sitta

WHO SAYS Oslo is dead? The final status negotiations are well underway. Although it is only a dry-run of the real thing, practised by a group of academics and aspiring politicians, it is a realistic blueprint of the future as the most sympathetic and 'moderate' Israelis would like it to see. Absent from the picture is the weight of the majority of the Palestinians whose fate is being discussed in closed rooms, namely the refugees.

According to Ha'aretz (Inching up a Treacherous Slope, September 9, 1998), a group of Israelis and Palestinians under the auspices of Harvard University's International Affairs Centre, has produced a 'compromise' report for the 'final solution' of the refugee problem (the quotation marks are not stated but meant).

The Israeli group is known to favour peaceful settlement with the Palestinians, some of them had official positions, all of them have an influence on Israeli public opinion and decision makers. So far so good. The 'compromise' therefore would be the best to be hoped for from the Israeli side.

What is the Israeli compromise? Israel shares the practical (not moral or legal) responsibility for Al Nakbeh in 1948, and is prepared to admit some families under 'Shamli' programme with some compensation to others set-off by compensation to Jews from Arab countries. In return, the Palestinians forfeit their right of return to their homes and those lucky enough to be selected by the Israelis can return to the West Bank and Gaza.

The report is principally co-authored by Joseph Alpher and Khalil Shikaki. Alpher is an American-Israeli who was a Mossad officer for over a decade chasing figures of the Resistance Movement, became a director of Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies and is now a director of the American Jewish Committee in Israel. Shikaki is a Nabulus academic and leading pollster. He is a refugee from Zarnuga and his family is exiled to Rafah refugee camp where his

father Ibrahim and brother Abdul Aziz still lives. He took a different political course from his eldest brother, Fathi, who was slain by the Israeli Mossad in Malta in 1995.

The report, or at least the Israeli portion of it, is based on the assumption that Palestinians do not belong to Palestine, hence they have no 'right of return' to it. They are not a people, so they can be stewed away in different countries. Their plight is a humanitarian issue to which all countries, including Israel, should contribute. The report is far too sophisticated to say this bluntly, but every direction it takes leads to this conclusion.

Moreover it says that Russians, Ethiopians, Poles and Moroccans have the 'right' to return to Israel unconditionally if they are Jews and they should be paid compensation by the Palestinians, among others, if they left their homes in Arab countries to settle in Palestine.

The message to five million refugees who were expelled from 530 localities and whose land is 92 per cent of Israel is "sorry for what happened in 1948, that is all".

The weight of human rights, U.N. resolutions and above all, the dogged determination of the Palestinians, is reduced to a hollow half-hearted apology.

The report generously accepts the return of "tens of thousands" under a family reunification programme, but it neglects to mention that this is a fraction of the three quarters of a million who would have been allowed to return when Israel promised in 1949 to allow the return of 100,000 as a price of admission to the U.N., but never honoured its promises.

The refugees allowed to return to the West Bank and Gaza, whose borders are left undefined in the report, should be regulated by the remaining territory's absorptive capacity and Israel's acquiescence. Those familiar with the present difficulty of getting a Palestinian ID will know that the return under these conditions is a misnomer. According to a 1996 study by K. McCarthy of Rand Corporation, the absorptive capacity of the West Bank, not to mention Gaza, is far too low to allow the return

of any appreciable number of refugees. Note that these refugees are not meant to return home but merely to change their camp address to Palestine. The present conditions are of course much worse than before. On both counts, the absorptive capacity and Israeli acquiescence, this 'compromise' is rendered useless.

But the blatant aspect of the Israeli position is the linkage of compensation for Palestinians to that of the Jews. The report neglects the fact that the Palestinians are entitled to both return and compensation. Careful studies put their compensation to \$511 billion, excluding homes and land. These are not for sale. The refugees are determined to recover their property. It is beyond comprehension that the report ignores that while Jews, under the pressure tactics of the World Jewish Restitution Organisation, are restoring their property in Europe without the benefit of a single U.N. resolution.

The linkage to compensation of Jews who left Arab countries is irrelevant for three reasons. First, this Jewish immigration to Israel took place after the expulsion of the Palestinians and as a result of it. Those Jews are beneficiaries of Palestinian property and they should pay compensation not receive it. Second, any Jewish claims should be addressed to the countries they left voluntarily. They could apply to these countries to recover their property and citizenship. It is of no concern to the Palestinians. Third, there is no U.N. resolution or international consensus to support this Jewish claim. The fact of the matter is that the Jewish claim, exaggerated as it is, is designed to thwart the legitimate claims of the Palestinians.

The proposal of settling the refugees in other countries is as old and as persistent as the Transfer plan advocated by Herzl and became a part of the hard-core Zionist doctrine. Last year, a new transfer plan, proposed by Donna Arz under the umbrella of (the American) Council on Foreign Relations was flatly rejected by the Gulf countries. A cursory examina-

tion of the events in the last 50 years shows clearly that settlement schemes are doomed to failure.

The Palestinians are willing, the report says, to accept that the return of the refugees en masse is not feasible. The boundaries are lost and the country is full of immigrants. If this is not an echo of the Israeli position, it is grossly misinformed. Every single dunum in Palestine is traceable. If it took Jarvis, the land expert of the U.N. Conciliation Commission, eight years to produce half a million records of land owners registry in 1964, it will take Israel Land Administration (ILA) few minutes to retrieve any information from its computer database. After all, ILA rents Palestinian land to the bankrupt Kibbutz. As to the crowded country, the report failed to mention that only about 170,000 Kibbutz farmers control 17,000,000 dunums of Palestinian land, wasting precious water and showing very little for it.

The report never mentions that Jewish immigration is a threat to the stability of the region or a strain — indeed a cause of war — on its limited resources, especially water. It never questions the racist nature of the Jewish law of return. It never shows any recognition of the anomaly between refusal of the Palestinians' right to return home and the unlimited access of new immigrants to these same homes.

The sad thing about the report is that it is intended to be the best that could be proposed by the most sympathetic Israelis. Israelis, it seems, are still the victims of the myths they created and expect the Palestinians to believe. For a better future for both peoples, they should look outside their own cloistered world and recognise — indeed address the injustice they have inflicted upon the Palestinians. Ha'aretz described the solution to the refugee problem like climbing Mount Everest. It seems the Israelis have to climb a lot more to see the light of the day.

The writer is a Palestinian contractor in Kuwait and a researcher on the issue of Palestine refugees.

New chancellor, new capital, old ways

By Timothy Garton Ash

"THIS IS a historic moment" a stalwart German Christian Democrat whispered to me as Helmut Kohl moved the stage at the party headquarters in Bonn. As if it needed saying! Given the Christian Democrats' had defeat, we all guessed that, after 16 years in power — 16 years that changed the world — the giant of Oggersheim, the chancellor of German unity and European unification, would be stepping down. When the cries of "Helmut! Helmut!" had finally abated, he gave a dignified short speech saying he would cease to be party leader as well as chancellor.

For Germany's conservatives, this was like Mrs. Thatcher's departure and last year's electoral disaster rolled into one. Like the British Conservatives, many Christian Democrats had felt the defeat coming. But the scale of it was still a shock — especially since the opinion polls had shown them catching up. As in Britain, people simply felt those in power had been there too long. They got bored with the same old faces. Boredom is an underrated factor in politics.

Kohl is the last great European statesman of the 20th century. As I watched him take his leave, I thought of a memorable conversation we had a few years ago. At one point he took my breath away. "Do you realise," he said, "that you are sitting opposite the direct successor to Adolf Hitler?" The point of this startling, even shocking, remark was that he — the first chancellor of a united Germany since Hitler — was going to do everything quite differently. Whereas Hitler had tried to put a German roof over Europe, he was determined to put a Euro-

pean roof over Germany. This amazing sally encapsulated several ingredients of Kohl's greatness: his acute instinct for power, his historical vision and the bold simplicity of his strategic thinking. To that we must add tactical adroitness, party-political cunning and, not least, vast physical stamina.

Last Sunday's election was not only the end of this gargantuan phenomenon. It was also the end of the Bonn republic. Next year the government will move to Berlin. As Isherwood didn't write: "Good-bye to Bonn." Walking up the modest dual carriageway which is the spine of the dark Rhineland city, with cheerful crowds thronging the pavements, their attention soon turning back from the election to a rock band, beer, and the Formula One Championships just up the road, I felt a pang of regret. For the Bonn republic has been a good Germany, perhaps the best Germany we have ever had. And in this election it proved the maturity of its quiet, civil democracy. Not only did the German voters once again reject the extremes of left and right, despite four million unemployed. For the first time in the history of the Federal Republic, they also changed the government as the direct result of a general election. According to the winner, the Social Democrat Gerhard Schröder, this rather than Kohl's departure, is the reason it may deserve the title "historic".

As I write, the triumphant Social Democrats and the environmentalist Greens announce have opened the coalition talks that precede the formation of any German government. Assuming these are successful, the two parties together will have a comfortable majority. Let me make three guesses about this "Red-Green"

coalition which, under Chancellor Schröder, and soon in magnificent new Berlin offices, would take Germany into the next century.

My first guess is an optimistic one. It has to do with so called "foreigners" living in Germany. The only disturbing element in this election campaign was the popular hostility to these "foreigners" that it revealed, especially in east Germany. To be sure of tumultuous applause, a politician had only to say something about foreigners "not abusing our hospitality" or "respecting our laws and ways." On the streets of Berlin the posters of a far-right nationalist party proclaimed simply "Criminal Foreigners Out!"

This is a problem that Germany has made for itself. Whereas Britain has a very restrictive immigration policy but then is quite liberal in granting British citizenship, Germany has been extremely liberal in taking people in, but very restrictive in granting them German citizenship. The result is that a staggering seven million people live as "foreigners" in Germany.

Now the Greens are admirable on this. They say: if a Turkish worker has lived here for years carrying out all the duties of a citizen, then he should have all the rights of a citizen as well. So my hope is that Germany may finally get a more normal, liberal citizenship law, as in Britain and America, with the main criteria being place of birth or long-term residence, rather than ethnicity. And high time too.

My second guess is more pessimistic — for Germany though perhaps not for its competitors. Helmut Kohl probably did larger things for his country than Margaret Thatcher did for hers. (To be fair, larger things needed doing. The United Kingdom did not need to be reun-

ited; rather the reverse). But Kohl failed to do precisely those big things that Thatcher did: reducing the power of the unions, privatisation, deregulation, lowering direct taxation, cutting public spending and so forth. Now Gerhard Schröder fought a campaign of Blair-like discipline and razzmatazz. But to be a Blair in office, you need first to have had your Thatcher.

If Germany is to remain competitive and to create new jobs, it needs some of that medicine. Thatcherism with a human face, so to speak. I think Schröder himself understands this. But in his own party the old left is much stronger than it is in New Labour. Not he but Oskar Lafontaine is party leader, which is rather as though Blair were prime minister but John Prescott were Labour leader. Schröder won older voters from the Christian Democrats by promising to restore their pensions. He also says that he will defend the welfare state and deliver "social justice." Meanwhile, the Greens have an agenda very far removed from neo-liberal economics. They want punitive taxes on petrol, for example. This does not add up to the political basis for reforms that German business leaders think are essential.

Finally, a guess about Europe and the implications for Britain. At the moment, it seems likely that Joschka Fischer, one of the most effective self-styled "realists" among the Greens, will become Germany's new foreign minister. This may be bad for concerned military action under NATO auspices in places such as Kosovo, since the Greens still have an influential pacifist wing. But it is unlikely to change the main lines of German policy in Europe.

Here, victory for the "German Blair" will give the British government new hopes of building a Franco-German-British triangle instead of the exclusive Franco-German axis. Schröder himself has made a nod in this direction. I think there is some basis for these hopes, less because all three governments are now of the left, than because the successor generation in German politics is simply cooler and more hard-nosed about Europe than were post-war Euro-enthusiasts such as Helmut Kohl.

Schröder himself was initially sceptical about European monetary union. Like so much else about him, it is hard to know whether this was a matter of personal conviction or simply trimming to public opinion. Now, of course, he'll go through with EMU and try to make it work — as should we. And his inaugural speech may still contain the usual visionary Euro-rhetoric. But unlike Kohl, he won't in fact be pursuing a personal vision of ever closer political union. This, together with the themes of flexibility, subsidiarity and eastward enlargement of the EU, makes common ground for a Blairite Britain.

Yet Blair will have to work at it. There remains the hard fact that Germany and France are inside the inner core of monetary union, and the UK is not. There is a great battle ahead about Germany's outside contribution to the EU budget. And as I write these lines, German television reports that Schröder will definitely make one foreign trip even before becoming chancellor. It is — you guessed? — to Paris. Like a chip off the old block, a leaf off the old Kohl.

— The Independent

Environment

Global meltdown looms

Despite growing awareness, the biggest threat to the environment comes from big business, unwilling to budge unless it can make money

By John Vidal

MARGARET THATCHER thought environmental problems could be resolved with good science and international politics. If only. The past decade has shown that she was willfully blind to the fact that the dogmatic free market economics which she and President Reagan espoused throughout the 1980s — and to which every world and national forum has since signed up — would exacerbate environmental problems just as much as central planning from Moscow ever did.

Thatcherism and Reaganomics may have made many people financially richer, but there is little doubt that they significantly increased the sum of human misery. On the back of crucial free trade pacts like the GATT and NAFTA, consumption is now virtually out of control in the richest countries. It has multiplied six times in less than 25 years, according to the U.N. Put another way, the richest 20 per cent of people are consuming roughly six times more food, energy, water, transportation, oil and minerals than their parents were.

Few people except discredited far-right ideologists believe it can continue like this, and this year's financial meltdown may be related directly to the speed of the increase in global consumption. But no government or world body is able to address the situation. Progress, happiness, satisfaction and the future — in the view of government and business — is more than ever linked to increased consumption.

This, in the West, results in environmental pollution; the pressure for new roads, more quarries, larger airports, second cars, bulkier packaging, more landfill sites, incinerators, supermarkets, the intensification of agriculture, the loss of skills, and ever bigger leisure or shopping developments. Linked to the inevitable erosion of

the physical environment that this brings is social disintegration: Breakdown of community life, health problems, job insecurity, the growth of monopolies and the ever-growing gap between rich and poor.

The first law of the environment is that pollution follows the poor. The last decade has intensified poverty everywhere. The U.N. says more than 2,400 million people now live without sanitation, a considerable increase on a decade ago; 1,200 million have no safe drinking water; similar numbers have inadequate housing, health and education services; more than 1,500 million are now undernourished, not because there is no food, or there is too much drought, but because of the increasing marginalisation of the poor.

Not only has the gap between rich and poor grown, but more people are falling into the poverty trap. Free-market economic policies, imposed on indebted countries by the West, worsen the situation by forcing countries to develop export industries to supply the rich, rather than to protect, educate or care for the weakest. The poorest countries now spend more servicing their debt to the richest countries than they do on health and education in their own countries. The numbers without access to basic services have risen exponentially in the past decade. World population, according to the U.N., will reach 6 billion next year and 7 billion in another decade. Current estimates are that it will level off at between 9 and 11 billion in about 50 years.

Meanwhile "sustainable development" — or what may better be termed "localism" — is growing widely as a grass-roots survival concept. Ever more community groups in Africa, South America, India and the East are now trying to practise small-scale, long-term development. But success often needs the sort of seed money, skills and resources that governments do not

Free market versus the environment

By Paul Brown

NEARLY ALL the many international agreements designed to save the environment are fatally undermined by free market economics. Progress can only be made if business keeps an advantage, which it seldom does.

The phasing out of CFCs which damage the ozone layer only happened when companies such as ICI and DuPont realised they could make more money out of expensive substitutes. The agreement has been undermined since by a lively black market in CFCs from Russia and China — arguably free market economics in its purest form.

The Climate Convention, the most ambitious world agreement ever concluded, is to cut greenhouse gas emissions. It is aimed at saving the planet from a disastrous runaway greenhouse effect, but it is bogged down in issues such as carbon trading and transferring clean technology to the developing world. The targets are far below what is needed, but the issue has long since ceased to be how we can save the world. It now boils down to how companies are going to make money out of it.

The Biodiversity Convention, which is aimed at stemming the terrible tide of species extinctions, is bogged down in funding wrangles. The convention was sup-

posed to prevent and regulate the pirating and patenting of genetic resources. Drug companies fear it will cost them dear in royalties, and Western governments — particularly the U.S. — have blocked all progress.

A Forest Convention never got past first base at the 1992 Earth Summit and it is clear it could never work. Trees are still used as a cash crop, but population increases and land-grabbing are worse threats. Opinions are split on how to stem the losses and try to save at least some of the world's forests.

The most ambitious scheme has been the WWF "forest stewardship endorsement", used by many businesses. Many governments, including Brazil, have also signed up to a second WWF initiative to save 10 per cent of their forests.

The brightest spot, in developed countries, is action on acid rain. The economic costs are sufficiently localised that there are obvious financial gains in taking action. This has allowed both Europe and North America to act alone. The problem is worsening in China and developing countries, where economic growth is largely untroubled by environment considerations and there has been little exchange of technology.

— The Guardian



Historic market-street comes alive

By M.R. Narayan Swamy
Agence France Presse

INDIAN AUTHORITIES are banting hawks and grime to restore some of the lost glory to a New Delhi shopping area that was the favourite haunt of the Muslim nobility some 300 years ago.

Prodded by a Hindu nationalist member of parliament, residents and shopkeepers on Chandni Chowk street, facing the Moghul-built, 17th-century Red Fort monument, are trying to resurrect a faded history.

The street's crumbling "havelis", or grand houses — once occupied by prosperous Muslim families — are getting a fresh coat of paint.

Original architecture on the historic buildings is becoming visible for the first time in decades, as municipal officials pull down countless shop boardings and ugly overhead electric wires.

"The aim is to revive the old glory of Chandni Chowk," says Rameshwar Goyal, a spokesman for the 600 shops dotting the one-and-a-half-kilometre long street linking the Red Fort to the 17th-century Fatehpuri Mosque.

Chandni Chowk, or Moonlit Square, was the elite business centre when Moghul emperor Shahjahan ruled much of north and northwestern India which stretched up to Afghanistan three centuries ago.

The street was then home to a lake which flowed from the Fatehpuri Mosque to the Red Fort. Shahjahan, his family and their courtiers used to shop at Chandni Chowk, decked out in all their royal finery. The street was renowned for having the best jewellery, ivory and garments.

The decline of the Moghul empire some 300 years ago

had its echo on Chandni Chowk. The rise of the British Raj and the decision to set up New Delhi city 10 kilometres away choked it further.

The horrific Hindu-Muslim violence which swept India when the sub-continent was partitioned at independence in 1947 forced thousands of Muslims to flee the city, reversing the demographic profile of Chandni Chowk which is now mainly Hindu.

The street quickly lost its old-world charm as small businesses fled into the area, fighting for every bit of space. The clean-up programme hopes to restore the faded elegance of the market street, where daily business turnover is estimated at five million dollars.

Chandni Chowk's main products are jewellery, leather, garments, perfumes and carpets. It is also the gateway to scores of other wholesale markets in the Moghul-built district.

Hindu nationalist Vijay Kumar Goel, elected to parliament from the area, decided two months ago to resurrect Chandni Chowk.

But not everyone is happy with his campaign. Some shopkeepers said Goel's efforts, although laudable, were chiefly aimed at garnering extra votes in upcoming elections in the capital.

The deputy priest at the 17th-century Fatehpuri mosque agreed.

"You can't restore old-time grandeur by simply painting some houses and buildings," said Mohammad Mouzzam Ahmed. "It's just a waste of public money."

"Can they do away with all illegal constructions which have mushroomed over the years? The old Chandni Chowk can never come back."

A world falling apart

Africa

THE AFRICAN environment is shaped by conflicting forces. Persistent economic, social and political problems, the world's highest population growth rate, a fall in terms of trade, long-term droughts and a lack of financial resources. Half a billion hectares of African land are moderately to severely degraded. Africa's forests are the most depleted of all tropical regions, but its grasslands are the richest in the world. Nineteen of the 25 nations with the highest percentage of people without access to safe drinking water are in Africa, where environmental degradation is intrinsically linked with poverty.

Asia and the Pacific

It comprises 24 per cent of the world's land area, but 58 per cent of its people. Despite high economic growth, more than two-thirds of those in absolute poverty live here. Asian timber reserves may only last for 35 years. Rapid growth in energy demands has increased air pollution, and acidification is a growing problem. Patterns of unsustainable land use, and conflicting policies and interests, threaten the loss of biodiversity, which accounts for 70 per cent of waste discharged in the

Pacific is untreated. It has the largest portion of the world's land affected by soil degradation.

Europe and the CIS nations

This region has 43 per cent of the world's population, and covers more than one-fifth of the earth's land surface. Many of its environmental problems stem from high consumption of resources and a high output of waste in densely-populated areas. Emissions of sulphur and nitrogen oxides are largely responsible for 30-50 per cent of forests damaged or dying in central and eastern Europe. Europe has added 10 million hectares of protected areas since 1982, but 52 per cent of the fish, 45 per cent of its reptiles and 42 per cent of mammals are under threat. Groundwater is over-exploited. Development puts 85 per cent of European coastal ecosystems at higher moderate risk. Europe contributes 36 per cent of world chlorofluorocarbon emissions, 30 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions and 25 per cent of sulphur dioxide emissions.

Latin America and the Caribbean

Five of the 10 most species-rich nations are in Latin

America, but biodiversity is highly threatened, with some 100,000 species from forested areas alone expected to be lost in the next 40 years. Rapid growth of tropical deforestation is being slowly reduced due to initiatives to abolish subsidies, tax incentives and special credits encouraging deforestation. Forty-seven per cent of the region's grazing lands no longer have fertile soil. Many Caribbean beaches have average tar levels 10 times higher than what is estimated to damage tourism. Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay are affected by increased ultraviolet-B radiation due to ozone depletion.

North America

The main underlying cause of environmental concerns is rapid economic growth. Canada and the U.S. are the largest exporters of forest products. In 1996, 728 species were endangered or under threat in the U.S. In Canada, it was 254. East coast fisheries have collapsed as fish stocks dry up.

— The Guardian

'Forceful action' needed by all countries to boost growth — IMF

WASHINGTON (AFP) — All countries must take "forceful action" to restore market confidence and growth to the world economy, the IMF's policy-making Interim Committee said Sunday.

"Forceful action is required on the part of member countries over a broad range of policies with the overriding aim of restoring market confidence and growth where needed," the Interim Committee said in a statement after a meeting here.

The committee groups finance ministers of 24 countries, representing one country or regional basis all 182 International Monetary Fund (IMF) members.

"The downside risks to the current outlook have increased significantly since the committee last met in April, the statement said.

The committee stressed the importance of industrialised countries in "sustaining global growth, containing deflationary risks, and creating environments conducive to smooth resolution of financial crises."

It singled out Japan, saying it was "essential that Japan should take prompt and resolute action to strengthen its banking system and to provide sufficient and sustained stimulus to revive domestic demand and restore confidence."

It also welcomed the U.S. Federal Reserve's (Fed's) decision to cut interest rates by 0.25 percentage points last Tuesday, along with the convergence of European Union (EU) euro zone interest rates towards the low levels of Germany and France.

But it said further cuts could be needed if the crisis worsened or economic activity slowed further.

The Fed rate cut disappointed the markets, which

had been hoping for a sharper reduction.

The IMF committee said some crisis-hit Asian countries have stabilised enough to allow "cautious" easing of their own interest rates.

It also said Russia must take "vigorous action" to tackle the root causes of its financial crisis, but added that the international community stands ready to support "convincing and effective" reform measures.

The IMF has frozen an aid package for Russia because of its failure to carry out reforms agreed in return for the money.

The committee said there were "some positive features" in the global outlook, but they would have to be strengthened if they were to help "carry forward the response to the crisis."

It cited continuing solid growth in the United States and western Europe, the contribution to monetary stability of the euro EU single currency due to be launched in January, and progress towards stabilisation in some crisis-hit Asian countries.

The committee also agreed to consider new funding for financing to help countries cushion the spillover effects of financial turmoil elsewhere.

"The committee agreed to explore a strengthened (IMF) capacity to provide more effectively contingent finance to help countries pursuing sound policies to maintain stability in the face of difficult global financial conditions," it said.

Brazil is widely expected

to seek such help in the form of a package to ease pressure on its economy due to the slump in market confidence in all emerging markets since the Asia crisis, but could not do so before Sunday's presidential election.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus said officials are discussing possible assistance for Brazil, and a formal request was likely soon.

The Interim Committee said that controls on capital movement, while never an effective long-term measure, could be appropriate in certain circumstances.

But senior IMF officials adamantly denied that the Fund was backing away from a commitment it made a year ago to promote the unfettered flow of capital across national borders.

Asked if the Fund was softening its stance on controls, Committee Chairman Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Italian treasury minister, insisted that "the position has not changed at all."

The committee also welcomed work so far on ways to reform the global economic rulebook to help prevent and resolve future crises, but said now is the time to "follow up with concrete and rapid action."

It called for the timely publication of economic data, greater transparency on the part of financial market participants and a deeper involvement of the private sector in preventing and resolving crises.

Grand Hyatt Amman opens Dec. 1, 98

On Dec. 1, 1998 the Grand Hyatt Amman, Middle East's first Grand Hyatt opens its doors to the public. It is a welcome addition to the tourism and business infrastructure of Amman and its been warmly welcomed by the Jordanian community.

Perched on a slope, the hotel overlooks dazzling panoramas of the city. It is also located in the heart of Amman's state business and diplomatic district, and close to its trade exhibition and conference centre.

At the soft opening, people will get a chance to look at 120 elegant guest rooms, and three food and beverage outlets. They will also get a glimpse of the Grand Café, where they will experience a selection of international dishes and local favorites throughout the day, seated in a panoramic indoor outdoor café.

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Egypt welcomes EU veto on anti-dumping duties

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian trade officials Monday welcomed the rejection by European Union ministers of a proposal to impose duties on unbleached cotton, a key sector in Egypt. "We were expecting it. It's a good move. When some importers in Egypt are penalised other importers in Europe are hesitant to import from us until the case is clear," said Gamal Bayoumi, assistant foreign minister for Egypt's trade talks with the EU.

European Union foreign ministers Monday rejected a European Commission proposal to impose five-year anti-dumping duties on imports of unbleached cotton fabrics from five developing countries, British officials said.

The officials attending the Luxembourg meeting said ministers from the 15-nation bloc had decided not to go ahead with the European Commission's proposal for duties on "grey cloth" imports from China, Egypt, India, Indonesia and Pakistan.

The proposal made on July 29 soured the trade climate between Egypt and the EU, particularly at talks on a partnership accord on trade liberalisation and agriculture.

Although the proposed duties were not on the agenda of the talks, Bayoumi told Reuters that Monday's move would help the negotiations, due to resume in November.

"There is not a direct relation but of course it poisoned relations at a time when I am trying to convince the Egyptian side, which asks how we can conclude a partnership deal when we are under attack," Bayoumi said.

"Of course this will ameliorate the environment," he said.

Egypt is Africa's largest cotton exporter and economists had said the anti-dumping duties hit Egypt's major export sector when Egyptian companies were already facing stiff competition from cheaper cotton goods from the Far East.

Egyptian industrialists had threatened to seek alternatives to their EU partners unless the duties proposal was dropped.

Private textile millers also welcomed the EU decision. "This is very good news, it will help our exports, which have been stopped this summer," said Assam Mahmoud, head of the trade section at the lobby group Textile Consolidation Fund. "This has been very difficult for us," he said, adding Egypt exports about 20,000 tonnes of unbleached cotton fabric a year. EU ambassadors in Cairo last week met Egypt's

Supply and Trade Minister Ahmed Gueily, who had warned them that Egypt would retaliate if the EU adopted the proposed duties, backed by cotton producers Italy, France, Portugal and Spain.

"We had a long meeting last week attended by ambassadors of European countries and the case was made very clear that these steps were unfair," said

Moumir Azzeddin, a textile miller and head of the Egyptian Businessmen Association (EBA) industrial committee. "Many of us were anxiously waiting."

"This means that political relations have helped stop these penalties," Azzeddin told Reuters. "It could have hurt Europeans because there is value-added in Europe to unbleached cotton exports. It also could have

penalised Europeans investing in Egypt who made feasibility studies on the price of raw materials without adding on the cost of the duties," he said. "It would have made their exports to Europe uncompetitive."

Britain, for example, opposed the duties, saying they would raise input costs for the British textile finishing industry.

REUTERS

The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.6345	0.6921	1.3465	134.48	1.5558	1616.20	1.8423	5.4803
DE Mark	0.6118	1.0000	0.3617	0.8240	82.18	0.9517	888.07	1.1272	3.3828
GB Sterling	1.6890	2.7619	1.0000	2.2762	227.00	2.6277	2729.04	3.1126	9.2589
CH Franc	0.7426	1.2127	0.4389	1.0000	99.73	1.1549	1198.88	136.70	4.0864
JP Yen	0.0074	1.2146	0.4395	1.0005	1.0000	1.1560	12.01	136.94	4.0727
CA Dollar	0.6428	1.0645	0.3803	0.8769	1.16	1.0521	1.2007	3.5899	
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0111	0.3688	0.8833	1203.22	0.9624	11.40	3.3904	
NL Guilder	0.5428	88.89	0.3208	73.09	72.94	0.8442	876.93	2.9741	
FR Franc	0.1825	0.2982	0.1079	24.5641	24.82	0.2838	33.61	33.8100	

Middle Eastern Currencies

Currency	USD	JOD	SAR	BAH	QAT	KUW	AED	LBP	EGP
US Dollar	1.0000	0.7090	3.7604	0.3770	3.6402	0.3031	3.6728	1502.00	3.4026
Jordan Dinar	1.4104	1.0000	5.2897	0.5317	5.1343	0.4275	5.1803	2118.48	4.7990
Saudi Riyal	0.2666	0.1890	1.0000	0.1006	0.97	0.8008	0.98	400.49	0.9072
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	1.8807	9.9485	1.0000	8.66	0.8040	9.74	3984.30	9.0286
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.1948	1.0303	1.0303	1.0000	0.8053	1.01	412.61	0.9347
Kuwait Dinar	3.2992	2.3392	12.3735	1.2437	12.01	1.12	12.12	4955.46	0.9347
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1930	1.0211	1.0208	0.9911	0.8025	1.01	408.95	0.9264
Lebanese/1000	0.57	0.4720	2.4969	0.2610	2.4236	0.2018	2.4453	1000.00	2.2863
Egyptian	0.2939	0.2084	1.1023	0.1108	1.0699	0.0891	1.0794	441.44	

Energy

Oils	Last	Previous
Brent	0.00	0.00
W. Texas	15.68	15.49
Bonny	0.00	0.00
Dubai	13.88	13.90
UL Gas	146.00	147.00

Mid-East Currencies

Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4389	0.15781	0.35832	35.8847
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.44514	0.16114	0.36692	36.6421
KW Dinar	3.2992	5.39374	1.95274	4.44642	444.06
BH Dinar	0.3770	4.33651	1.57011	3.57526	357.016
CY Pound	2.0651	3.3746	1.2209	2.7794	277.957

Metal Prices

Metal	Bid	Offer
Gold (oz's)	297.2	297.7
Silver (oz's)	5.11	5.14
Platinum (oz's)	342.5	344.5
CU (3 Months)	1320	1321
AL (3 Months)	1893	1896
Zinc (3 Months)	967	971
Lead (3 Months)	513	518
Ni (3 Months)	3980	4000

Libor Fixing

Period	1-Month	3-Months	6-Months	1-Year
USD	5.3750	5.3125	5.1250	4.8984
GBP	7.4600	7.3125	7.1211	6.8125
JPY	0.3867	0.4102	0.4375	0.4608
DEM	3.6000	3.6625	3.5489	3.6000
CHF	3.4800	3.4463	3.4144	3.5313
FRF	1.2500	3.5293	3.5215	3.5078
ITL	5.0610	4.8250	4.2670	

Energy

Commodity	Last	Delivery
Coffee (c/lbs)	104.17	Spot
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1938	Spot
Sugar (\$/ton)	218	Spot
Wheat (\$/ton)	114	Spot
Soya (c/lbs)	24.44	Spot
Tea (std/kg)	125	Spot
Barley (\$/bush)	0	Spot
Rice (\$/ton)	415	Spot

* JOD Cross Rates

Currency	Buy	Sell
US Dollar	0.708	0.710
GB Sterling	1.199	1.205
DE Mark	0.4325	0.4347
CH Franc	0.6241	0.6267
FR Franc	0.129	0.1296
JP Yen	0.6235	0.6261
NL Guilder	0.3836	0.3865
IT Lira	0.4376	0.4398

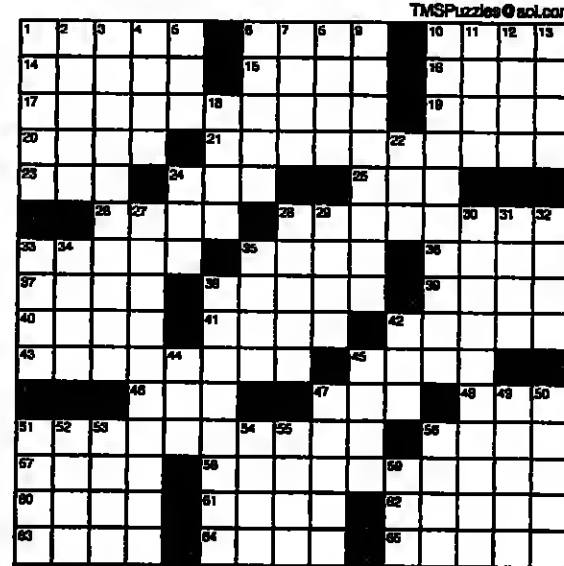
* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

THE Daily Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

ACROSS

- Thespian
- Dust particle
- Fifty percent
- Use jointly
- Tail tale
- Region
- Farty pooper
- Level
- and crafts
- hopeless one
- Zlich
- Gore and D'Amato
- Exclamation of approval
- Behold: Latin
- Advance tryouts
- Wood-shaping machine
- Obscure
- Archaic pronoun
- Botanical wings
- Race-track tipsters
- Silent
- Silent actress
- Negri
- Outer edges
- Clump
- Opening to look through
- Collapsible shelter
- Small drink
- Drunkard
- Peggy and Gypsy Rose
- Infellectual person
- "My Friend"
- "M-A-S-H" star
- as a pancake
- Car
- Sales circuit
- Domesticated
- Low-fat
- Page



By F.E. Robbins

Boca Raton, FL

CAPE	FLARE	SCAB
URIAL	LITVIA	PERU
BACKNUMBER	ANIL	
AGE	ETNA	MARTEL
AWES	TASSELS	
BASILS	WORKER	
EMILY	WINKS	FIB
NODS	CANTS	LODE
TSE	FARGO	RULER
WRISTS	LEADEN	
PRIESTS	MENU	
RANCHO	HATE	MBA
OLDE	FRONTWHEEL	
SLED	FORGE	ISLE
EYRE	SENIOR	TALE

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- Down
- Egyptian dam
- Collette novel
- Snitch
- Gloves
- Fam. member
- Breach of contract, e.g.
- Sisters of Charity founder
- Chew the scenery
- More indulgent
- Float on the wind
- Songstress
- Fitzgerald
- Man with an apple
- Actress
- Elisabeth
- Casual farewell
- Pressing device
- End of an

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE BETTER HALF



"I've tried to lose weight, but I think aliens abduct me at night and put food in my mouth."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LESOO

ZISEE

WENITH

TOOCLE

Ans: AT THE

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABBEY OPIUM FORGET CIRCUS

Answer: She didn't buy the dress because it was TOO BIG IN THE PRICE

(Answers tomorrow)

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Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

IPC to organise national workshop later this month on investment in Jordan

THE INVESTMENT Promotion Corporation (IPC) will soon begin implementing a strategy to promote and market Jordan in world countries in order to increase the volume of Arab and foreign investments. IPC Directors General Muntasser Oqlah said the strategy, which was drawn up in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was based on sectors where Jordan has a relative advantage.

Accordingly, specific international geographical areas were selected as potential investors that would show interest and be presented advantages from investing in the above-mentioned sectors in the Kingdom. The sectors include mining, tourism, electronics, programming, and textiles, pharmaceutical and electronic industries.

Noting that the measures which the IPC undertakes are in implementation of the Royal Letter of Designation to the government and the directives of the prime minister, Oqlah indicated that the sectors chosen were based on studies carried out by the technical unit at the Ministry of

Planning in cooperation with the "U.S. international competitive team."

He indicated that the corporation will carry out promotion campaigns to seize the initiative in the selected geographical areas that have experience and interest in the sectors to inform them about the benefits that they will reap from their investments in Jordan.

Oqlah said the implementation of the strategy to promote investments in Jordan comes within a national strategy to encourage investment drawn up last year and will be carried out this year. Among the priorities of the strategy are servicing the investors, following up on their investment issues and activating the role of the corporation in assisting the investors before, through, and after the investment process.

The IPC concluded by revealing that the corporation, in its efforts to simplify investment-related procedures, will hold a national workshop by the end of this month in cooperation with the USAID and the World Bank about the investment in Jordan and the procedures followed by the IPC in servicing the investors.

Cabinet bans importing old trucks, trailers

THE COUNCIL of Ministers has decided to ban imports of trucks and trailers that are more than 10 years old. Public works and Transport Minister Nasser Lawzi said the decision aims at limiting the number of outdated trucks in the Kingdom and at facilitating the modernisation of the land transport fleet.

The decision exempted from the ban the trucks at the free zones or which are now being cleared through customs. Meanwhile, observers have indicated that the recession and the slow activity did not encourage the modernisation of the trucks. As such, the government had to take the

necessary measures to influence the modernisation of the fleet.

There are nearly 8,000 trucks operating in the Kingdom, compared to about 12,000 before the Gulf crisis, and maintenance of these trucks absorbs most of the money earned by the old trucks. Observers attribute the decline in the size of the fleet to the low activity resulting from the sanctions imposed on Iraq and the low trade with Arab Gulf countries which are now gradually importing more Jordanian products after intensive efforts by the government to boost trade with the Arab countries (Al Ra'i).

Accounting firm asked to begin winding up the Public Transport Corporation

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN — The government, trying to divest its interest in the indebted transport sector, has asked a local accounting firm to begin liquidating the Public Transport Corporation's assets.

Al Khubrah accounting firm won the JD40,000 contract last week to assess the firm's liabilities and sell its assets, mainly decrepit buses in use since the early 1980s.

The government is expected to absorb the bulk of the Public Transport Company's JD13 million debt.

The Ministry of Transport, which is working to privatise most of the state-run enterprises under its umbrella, last week awarded two companies, Asia Company and Tawfiq Transport, the concession for two bus routes in the Greater Amman Municipality.

The ministry, which plans to stop operating the Public Transport Corporation's 120 run-down red and white buses as of April 1, did not receive any bids for the fourth unit of the four-part concession, according to a ministry official.

Asia Company, which had already won unit three last month, succeeded in obtaining unit two and Tawfiq Transport won the concession for unit one. Details of the bids were not available.

Officials said Monday the ministry was in the process of restructuring the unit four circular bus route to make it more attractive for private-sector firms before issuing the tender for the third time. The route connects the city's three terminals Raghdan, Abdali and Sharq Al-Awsat.

Transport companies have been demanding that the government increase the fares, saying that owners have sustained heavy losses due to high operational costs. But ministry officials say that any increase should be coupled with modernisation of the buses and better service.

Companies claim the fares, set by the government, do not represent the actual costs, noting that transport companies are now paying much more for

insurance, fuel, spare parts, customs and workers' wages compared to a decade ago.

But some officials doubt that even if prices are increased, private bus owners would improve services.

"It is like the chicken and the egg, which comes first?" said an industry manager. "We cannot modernise our fleets if we are not making money and vice versa."

In the back of the minds of industry experts and officials are successive riots sparked over increases in prices of bread and other day-to-day necessities.

"Raising bus fares could be as explosive as the bread issue," said a leading businessman. "But if the service is to improve, prices have to be reassessed."

For example, the 350 fils fare for the 45-minute ride from Amman to Jerash, is the same as the cost of a soda bottle at a restaurant.

The Public Transport Corporation, a state monopoly which has had the concession rights on all routes in the Municipality of Greater Amman since its inception in the 1970s, has been posting monthly losses of JD100,000.

The company's ageing fleet of buses currently covers five per cent of the routes within the municipality, while 13 private operators are running 500 smaller, modern buses under a 15-year concession granted seven years ago.

The corporation awarded the concession rights to operate the new buses after the 1990-91 Gulf crisis forced over 300,000

Jordanians to return from the Arab Gulf states, straining the corporation's operations.

Despite their heavy dependence on the public buses, commuters have long complained of the corporation's unreliable, unsafe and low-quality service.

According to ministry officials, the corporation will be restructured to assume the role of a regulatory body — a plan that has been five years on the discussion table. But government sources said a draft law is now before the Cabinet.

The proposals involve turning the Public Transport Corporation into a government department that would supervise public transport in the Amman area.

JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SOUDESAMI											
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 05/10/1998											
PART	12 MONTHS HIGH	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
S	355,500	170,000	ARAB BANK	17.1	.95	36	600	125708	210.00	209.50	-.50
	1,940	1,550	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	12.6	4.52	2	750	1163	1.55	1.55	-
	2,640	1,350	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	11.1	6.56	3	1200	1896	1.58	1.58	-
	2,610	1,350	THE HOSAINI BK.	18.3	3.47	14	6913	20018	2.86	2.88	.02
	3,450	1,760	JOR. KUMHAT BANK	8	0.00	3	791	1399	1.76	1.77	.01
*	840	550	JOR. GULF BANK	9	0.00	1	1000	540	.55	.54	-.01
S	3,910	1,660	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.4	0.00	6	829	1403	1.69	1.70	.01
	1,260	930	UNION BK. SAV. INV.	P	0.00	1	1000	900	.95	.90	-.05
	850	600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	P	0.00	6	4750	3088	.66	.65	-.01
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 276.48		%CHG: -0.14	72	17833	156113			
S	4,000	1,350	JERUSALEM INSUR.	9.5	5.71	1	150	210	1.35	1.40	.05
	2,850	1,840	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	7.3	9.62	10	4850	12399	2.58	2.60	.02
	2,350	1,800	ARAB LIFE INSUR.	9.3	0.00	2	2350	4559	1.94	1.94	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 126.24		%CHG: +0.37	13	7350	17416			
S	2,240	1,410	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.4	5.69	15	8679	12584	1.45	1.45	-
	4,030	1,550	IRBIO ELECTRICITY	10.5	5.88	11	950	1650	1.70	1.70	-
*	1,340	710	NATL. PORTFOLIO	27.9	0.00	2	500	350	.71	.70	-.01
	1,120	680	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.7	0.00	1	500	375	.72	.75	.03
S	9,500	1,100	ALBAH'1	8.3	7.34	3	125	682	5.48	5.45	-.03
S	1,480	1,060	NID. EAST HOTELS	P	0.00	1	250	273	1.09	1.09	-
S	4,600	1,880	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.4	2.11	2	350	665	1.88	1.90	.02
	990	880	KARZA EDUCATION	20.5	0.00	3	1400	1246	.90	.89	-.01
	1,800	1,060	UNIFIED CO.	5.0	9.73	4	1800	2034	1.13	1.13	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 105.88		%CHG: +0.20	42	14554	19829			
	3,740	1,840	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	11.1	5.88	6	901	1689	1.88	1.87	-.01
	6,500	3,750	ARAB POTASH CO.	18.7	5.25	7	2200	8360	3.82	3.80	-.02
	10,050	2,050	JOR. PETROLEUM REFINERY	10.2	8.43	9	1811	19057	20.58	20.54	-.04
	4,450	5,950	JORDAN TANNING	8	8.25	2	70	339	4.85	4.85	-
	1,630	1,060	INDUSTRIAL CORN. AGR.	67.4	0.00	5	1450	1654	1.14	1.14	-
S	5,550	1,050	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.7	9.35	1	150	161	1.06	1.07	.01
	6,350	4,700	DAR ALDAMA DV. INV.	6.4	6.40	1	250	1325	5.36	5.30	-.06
	2,980	1,700	ARAB ALUM. IND.	13.3	13.89	3	1580	2842	1.80	1.80	-
	1,320	380	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	13.2	0.00	11	9750	3803	.39	.39	-
	930	670	ARAB PAPER CORP. TRD.	23.2	0.00	4	3600	2736	.76	.76	-
	790	370	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	2	2500	1075	.42	.43	.01
	1,570	800	INTERMED. PETRO. CORP.	9	0.00	16	15800	4479	.28	.29	.01
	1,760	760	UNIV. CTR. INFO.	9.5	0.00	3	650	703	.94	.93	-.01
*S	2,200	700	NATL. CABLE WIRE. MPAC	32.3	0.00	1	500	345	.71	.69	-.02
	710	380	JOR. SULPHO-CHRM	7.2	0.00	7	4600	1748	.38	.38	-
	1,470	1,150	ARAB PHARM. CORP.	12.5	4.86	3	650	615	1.24	1.23	-.01
S	1,260	530	UNIV. MOD. INDUS.	9.7	9.84	17	10750	6570	.61	.61	-
	920	480	JOR. INVS. RESOURCES	9	0.00	2	2000	1000	.49	.50	.01
	1,080	600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	16.5	16.39	4	2650	1614	.61	.61	-
	1,560	1,150	EL. WY. READY WEAR	45.4	0.00	9	44400	50657	1.28	1.29	.01
S	1,310	910	INTL. TOBACCO	7.2	5.66	11	60300	62109	1.03	1.03	-
	890	560	JORDAN STEEL	9.5	8.24	2	1550	1218	.85	.85	-
	730	580	NAT. ALUMINUM	32.2	0.00	4	2750	1838	.66	.67	.01
	670	530	WTO. EAST COMPLEX	9.6	0.00	15	14450	7659	.53	.53	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 76.55		%CHG: -0.33	145	185300	189160			
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 167.40		%CHG: -0.16	272	225037	382517			
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 05/10/1998											
N	1,050	860	EXPORT & FIN. BKK. 752	15.9	0.00	1	250	153	.86	.86	-
N	1,000	700	JOR. INT. INSURANCE CO	E	0.00	1	150	128	.82	.85	.03
N	490	270	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	9	0.00	1	100	28	.29	.28	-.01
N	480	240	JOR. TRADE FAC.	9	0.00	3	6000	2280	.38	.38	-
N	800	500	UNION INV.	9	0.00	5	29488	15628	.53	.53	-
N	620	240	ARAB PWR. INVEST.	9	0.00	10	66300	15912	.24	.24	-
N	620	250	JOR. IND. INTL. INV. TRD.	9	0.00	1	2000	260	.13	.13	-
N	430	210	ARAB INTL. INV. TRD.	24.2	0.00	8	10700	2245	.21	.21	-
N	580	260	NATL. MULT. ENG. BANCORP	9	0.00	1	5000	1300	.26	.26	-
N	350	190	ARAB ELCTC. IND.	9	0.00	2	400	140	.35	.35	-
N	690	560	MIDWEST FINANC. PG	E	0.00	11	6013	2776	.57	.56	-.01
N	720	570	RABL PHARM.	E	0.00	2	5000	2950	.60	.59	-.01
N	350	240	INDS. CHEMICAL	E	0.00	1	250	80	.20	.20	-
N	340	160	1. TEXTILE MANUP.	9.9	0.00	6	3300	536	.14	.14	-
N	950	540	ADVANCED PHARM. IND.	9	0.00	5	2900	1624	.57	.56	-.01
N	500	300	PEARL SAV. P. CONV.	E	0.00	2	500	150	.30	.30	-
N	640	430	NATL. POULTRY	9	0.00	1	500	255	.51	.51	-
N	950	320	OFFICIAL REARING CO.	9	0.00	3	700	235	.34	.34	-
N	1,000	690	AL-ZASAL PRINTING CO.	10.7	10.82	1	5000	3500	.70	.70	-
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 144.86		50250						
* New 12 months low											
* Stock dividend during the past 12 months											
* Listed during the past 12 months											
* P/E ratio is 100 or more											
* Negative P/E											
* Earnings less zero or N/A for the most recent year											

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1998

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You'll get an opportunity to take action, probably early in the day. Be careful. One of the options is not as it appears. Check everything carefully before deciding, and give yourself a way out. Hold off on significant financial decisions until tomorrow. They won't be as exciting, but they'll be a lot safer.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You've been under pressure lately to do what someone else wants, and you've been good at it. You like to serve other people, especially if your own needs are being met. Right now, you want to take the bull by the horns. Make sure you get part of the deal, now that you've provided what the other person needed.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Deadlines are looming. By tomorrow, you'll be under so much pressure it might be difficult to think clearly. So get as much done today as possible. It's important to do things perfectly, but you've got a little leeway. If you get it done at least perfunctorily for now, you can put in the final correction later.

CANCER: (

Strike threat hits Italian soccer

MILAN (AFP) — Italian footballers are ready to go on strike in protest at the current drugs controversy, according to players' union boss Sergio Campana on Monday.

Players at Juventus, Parma and Udinese have all faced press allegations of drug use in recent weeks, amid a growing scandal over Italy's ramshackle anti-doping campaign.

Asked if the Serie A should be stopped by strike action, as it was in March 1996 for just one day,

Campana said: "In the current climate, stopping the championship for at least six months would be an adequate response."

"The players are more indignant than anyone else over this daily pestering, with names and detailed references to players and their clubs."

"For this reason, after the national team's match (against Switzerland on Saturday) we will announce the action to be taken."

"I've already spoken to all the team captains and we

will let people know next week what form our protest will take."

"There have been monumental violations of players' privacy, and yet at the start of the season, it was said that not even the nature of players' injuries would be revealed."

"But now, we are faced with the kind of slander which deserves the proper sanctions. And yet, no-one is doing anything about it."

Spectre of drugs haunts Italian soccer

MILAN (AFP) — Italian footballers were taking the field Sunday in the hope of deflecting attention away from talk that they are riddled with steroids, stimulants and EPO.

Damaging revelations have become an almost daily occurrence, a string of top officials have quit or been sacked and clubs such as Juventus, Parma, Udinese and Lecce are all facing damaging allegations of drug use.

The growing scandal has also galvanised the national government, the parliament, the judiciary, the police and the medical profession, and badly damaged Italy's image in international sport.

In short, what started out two months ago as a veiled warning by AS Roma coach Zdenek Zeman has turned into the biggest scandal since the "Totonero" betting syndicates of the late 1970s.

Several clubs were busy defending themselves over the weekend, headed by Parma, after leaked reports that nearly their entire squad had high levels of red corpuscles in their blood during July.

High levels have been associated with the use of EPO, a substance which increases the blood's ability to store oxygen and therefore fight fatigue.

Club president Stefano Tanzi explained that the tests were sent to two different laboratories for examination: one set came back with erroneous (high) results because of faulty equipment and the other with normal readings. Copies of the latter have now been handed over to the Bologna state prosecutor who is leading the enquiry, Giovanni Spinosa.

And in an unprecedented move, made with the players' approval, they were also handed out to reporters at a weekend press conference.

"A lot of mistakes have been made by people talking about this," Tanzi said. "Now we are going to keep quiet and hand the matter over to our lawyers. I'm tired of it all."

Juventus also counter-attacked at the weekend, having been the first target of the allegations, when Zeman expressed his surprise at the muscles on current player Alessandro Del Piero and former idol Gianluca Vialli.

The club's president Vittorio Chiusano, himself a renowned lawyer, took a swipe at the enquiry being led by Turin state prosecutor Raffaele Guariniello.

Like Tanzi, Chiusano is furious that supposedly confidential enquiries are being leaked to the press.

He announced legal proceedings against a Rome radio station that claimed two Juventus players had been using recreational drugs, and went on to target the Turin judge.

"This kind of journalism is being helped by a way of conducting an investigation which I do not agree with," he said. "The only source of information is the pages of the daily newspapers."

"We are returning to the edicts of the Middle Ages. Guariniello's enquiry seems to be limitless in terms of its scope and duration. But on this, we are going to make our voices heard in all right the places."

Udinese are among the clubs threatening legal action for defamation, after one of their players was reportedly among several who failed dope tests in 1996/97, but whose allegedly stimulant-ridden sample was then covered up.

Lecce, meanwhile, have to deal with a defender who tested positive for steroids, but who is pleading ignorance, saying he used merely a cream to treat cuts and grazes.

Zeman has no regrets about the turmoil he has created, and believes that important changes will follow.

"The credibility of Italian football has to be preserved, and it's down to us to do it," he told the Gazzetta dello Sport on Sunday. "It doesn't take much, all it needs is to keep things healthy."

"We need a cultural revolution. It's not a problem to do with football, but with the society we live in, where people who always look for a devious answer to their problems. Football reflects life today."

"To clear that up, it's going to take time."

Kuerten beats Moya to win Mallorca open

PALMA DE MALLORCA, Balearic Islands (AP) — Brazil's Gustavo Kuerten won the \$475,000 Mallorca ATP clay court tennis tournament Sunday, beating the favourite Carlos Moya of Spain in three sets.

World No. 5 Moya took the first set 7-6, winning 7-5 on the tiebreak, before losing the next two sets to the Brazilian 6-2, 6-3.

The two hours and four minute match disappointed the crowd that had packed into the local bullfighting ring on this Mediterranean island to support Moya — a local hero.

"I like to play with that kind of pressure because it motivates me, while on the other hand I think it made Moya a bit nervous," Kuerten told reporters after the match.

The Kuerten-Moya final was billed as duel between two Roland Garros champions, the Brazilian from 1997 and the Spaniard from this year's winner.

The tournament's doubles finals pitting Pablo Albano and Daniel Orsanic of Argentina against Jiri Novak and David Rikl of the Czech Republic was called off because of rain.

The organisers said the final would be played next week during the Palermo Open, the next ATP competition.



Venus Williams from the United States displays the Grand Slam Cup trophy after the final against Patty Schnyder of Switzerland in Munich. Williams won the match 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 (Reuters photo)

Williams outpowers Schnyder for lucrative win

MUNICH (R) — Venus Williams won the first women's final of the Grand Slam Cup and almost doubled her earnings for the year by beating Swiss Patty Schnyder 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 on Sunday.

The towering 18-year-old American, who had earned \$913,346 since the start of the year when she came to Munich, pocketed \$800,000 as women appeared for the first time in the lucrative event for the best performers in the year's four grand slams.

Victory for Schnyder would have made her the most prolific player on the women's circuit this year with six titles.

Instead she stayed tied with American Lindsay Davenport with five wins after having to settle for the runner-up prize of \$400,000.

The World No. 5 overpowered Schnyder in the first set, firing her trademark missiles and taking it in 28 minutes with a big forehand volley.

The 19-year-old Swiss fought back in the second, running for every ball until Williams hit a straightforward backhand into the net to give her a 5-3 lead.

Servicing for the set, the Swiss teenager had to save two set points before winning with another error by



Patty Schnyder from Switzerland reacts during the final against Venus Williams from the United States at the Grand Slam Cup in Munich (Reuters photo)

the sometimes clumsy Williams.

Schnyder, world-ranked ninth, had impressed in her semifinal here against compatriot Martina Hingis until the World No. 1 pulled out because of cramp at 5-5 in the deciding set.

But there was little she could do to counter Williams, who was back in command in the deciding set, opening up a 3-1 lead and later sealing victory with a fiery two-handed backhand volley on her first match point.

Fiorentina keep lead; Madrid, Lyon lose

PARIS (AFP) — Brazilian ace Edmundo snatched a winner in the second minute of injury time, on Sunday to keep Fiorentina top of the Serie A with a heart-stopping 1-0 victory over Udinese.

The win also maintained Fiorentina's 100 per cent record — they lead the table with 12 points from four games, two points ahead of Inter Milan.

Edmundo's winner in the last minute was all the more uncanny as coach Giovanni Trapattoni had called on the fans 24 hours earlier to be patient, saying: "The goal could come in the 90th minute."

Edmundo smashed the ball home after surging into the Udinese penalty area and working a neat one-two with Portuguese playmaker Manuel Rui Costa.

Trapattoni said on Sunday: "They made us suffer in the first half but this team has real character and knows how to soak up pressure. In the second half we had more chances to score than they did and I think we deserved to win."

World Cup winner Youri Djorkaeff was Inter Milan's hero for the second time in four days in their 2-0 victory over Perugia.

Inter were made to wait 94 minutes for the Frenchman's midweek winner against Sturm Graz in the Champions League, but Chilean Ivan Zamorano put them ahead after only 11 against Perugia on Sunday.

Djorkaeff nodded back Francesco Colonnese's long ball upfield and Zamorano volleyed home.

Djorkaeff then put the result beyond doubt in the 54th minute, heading in a loose ball after Perugia's keeper fumbled a Francesco Moriero shot. It was the Frenchman's first league goal of the season.

Reigning champions Juventus beat Piacenza 1-0 in what was a family affair, albeit against a backdrop of Italy's continuing drug controversies.



Real Zaragoza shot to the top of the Spanish championship table on Sunday following their 2-0 win at Extremadura and Real Madrid's defeat in the late game.

Madrid suffered their first defeat of the season, 1-0 to a goal from the Nigerian international of Real Betis Finidi George.

But second-placed Madrid, two points behind, will be out to settle things when they travel to Zaragoza in their next match in two weeks following Euro 2000 qualifiers.

George's 55th-minute goal gave Betis their first victory of the season. His long-range effort took a wicked deflection to bring his side the points.

Meanwhile Zaragoza easily cast aside 10-man Extremadura, who had their Serb keeper Gaspovic sent off in the 52nd minute for violent conduct against compatriot Savo Milosevic.

Zaragoza missed the ensuing penalty, but scored their first goal through Argentina's Kili Gonzalez three minutes later in the 55th minute. Milosevic hit an easy second five minutes from time while the passive Extremadura defence was waiting for the offside flag.

Bastia burst Bordeaux's bubble on Saturday, handing the French league leaders their first defeat of the season with a 2-0 win in Corsica.

Second-placed Lyon missed the chance to close the gap when they slipped to a 2-0 defeat at fast-improving Nantes.

Nantes took the lead in the 57th minute when Fred Da Rocha hit a right-footed shot home from just outside the box.

And after the Canaries had spurned several good chances to go further ahead it was Olivier Monterrubio who bagged the second on the whistle from close-range to hand Lyon their first defeat of the campaign.

Marseille took full advantage of Lyon's slip-up, going second themselves by beating Toulouse 2-0 at the Stade Velodrome with goals from Florian Maurice just before half-time and a late second from Fabrizio Ravanelli.

Lyon's reverse means Marseille are now the only unbeaten side in the league. They are also just one point behind Bordeaux.

"We're now very well-placed. I am very pleased," said Marseille coach Roland Courbis.

Monaco meanwhile slid to a 2-1 defeat at Rennes, who are establishing themselves as early contenders for Europe.

Paris Saint Germain coach Alain Giresse came under more pressure as his side were beaten 1-0 by French champions Lens at the Parc des Princes on Sunday.

Haitian Wagneau Eloi hit the winner past Bernard Lama for Lens in the 85th minute to leave a stunned Giresse with another defeat to contemplate, leaving them just 12th in the table.

Bayern Munich drew 2-2 with Borussia Dortmund on Sunday to stretch their Bundesliga lead to three points from arch rivals 1860 Munich.

Dortmund controlled the opening 35 minutes and were rewarded with Stephane Chapuisat's goal in the 16th minute. Bayern kept their cool though and equalised through Giovane Elber in the 39th minute. Seconds later Munich claimed the lead when Carsten Jancker pushed the ball home from a few yards but Christian Nerlinger pulled Dortmund level.

Blow to France as Barthez ruled out of Euro qualifier

PARIS (AFP) — France suffered a blow in the run-up to Saturday's European championships qualifier against Russia with the news here Monday that leading goalkeeper Fabien Barthez is injured and will miss the Group Four game.

French coach Roger Lemerre has called-up Paris St Germain's Bernard Lama to join Lioel Charbonnier of Glasgow Rangers on the squad after Barthez failed to make the Monaco line-up for Saturday's French league encounter with Rennes

because of a strained right thigh.

A key member of France's victorious World Cup side, Barthez was also on the sidelines for Lemerre's first game in charge of the Blues, August's friendly against Austria. France made a faltering start in their opening Euro 2000 match last month when they only managed a draw against Iceland.

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Hamam Theatre
	TEL: 5934144	TEL: 4634144	TEL: 5699238	TEL: 5677420	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 4625155
	Bruce Willis .. in LAST MAN STANDING Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Jennifer Tilly & Gina Gershon .. in BOUND Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam .. in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD '1' NASSER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria ARMAGEDDON Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria Lesley Nielsen .. in MR. MAGOO Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play

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Watch out for the new play



Andre Agassi

Agassi: I can be No.1 again

MUNICH (R) — It's been a long road back for Andre Agassi, who now believes he can fight his way back to the top of the tennis world. "I think this week was the first week I really started feeling like I can be the best again," said the former World No.1 after losing a close five-set battle with Chile's Marcelo Rios in Sunday's Grand Slam Cup final.

The 28-year-old American, who was granted a wild card for the lucrative tournament for the best performers in the year's four Grand Slams, showed glimpses of his old form throughout the week. "It's been a real good week for me," said Agassi, who has leapt to eighth in the ATP Tour rankings after sinking below 140th last year.

"I started really hitting my shots. I'm playing aggressive tennis again and, you know, that's the key to my game," he said.

Agassi started his Munich performance in style, whitewashing France's Cedric Pioline 6-0 6-0 in 34 minutes to the shortest match in the history of the event, which started in 1990.

He then outplayed Australian Open champion Petr Korda before staging one of the most remarkable comebacks of his career, saving four match points on his way to a five-set victory over Karol Kucera.

That win was sweet revenge for Agassi, who was beaten in five sets by the Slovak in the fourth round of the U.S. Open last month.

"It was real good tennis, there's no question about it, and to win in five sets certainly was very satisfying," said Agassi, who had not won from a match point down since beating compatriot David Wheaton at the 1994 Canadian Open.

His fight to overcome Kucera, which lasted nearly four hours, took its toll and Agassi suffered against Rios.

"I wasn't at my best physically but I was committed to get the job done," he said. "I held up good, I had a sniff at it."

Agassi, who was hampered by a string of injuries in 1997, but also admitted that his mind was not entirely set on tennis, has once again dedicated himself to the game.

"I'm enjoying all of it again," he said, remembering times last year when he was sweating on the unglamorous Challenger circuit, trying to gain a few places.

"It's been a lot of hard work," he said. "First I had to get ready physically and then there was another adjustment I had to make which was the mental discipline, the commitment... That part has been a bit more difficult for me but I feel I've accomplished it. That's very satisfying."

Agassi took important steps back from last year's debacle, enjoying a great hardcourt season with four tournament wins.

But he did not quite make it when it mattered most and suffered a frustrating Grand Slam season, failing to go beyond the fourth round in any of the four.

"I've beaten a few guys bad in finals but now I have to win the big ones again and that's something I wasn't able to do this year," he said.

"To win the big matches, you have to get through that part of the match where it can go either way, then rise above by hitting your shots the way you expect to," he added.

"That's what I felt like I was doing this week, for the first time this year."



Detroit Lions' half back Barry Sanders (L) leaps away from the tackle of Chicago Bears' safety Marty Carter (R) during the third quarter of the game at Chicago's Soldier Field. The Lions lost 31-27 (Reuters photo)

NFL RESULTS

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Results on Sunday in the National Football League:

Atlanta	51	Carolina	23
Buffalo	26	San Francisco	21
Chicago	31	Detroit	27
Indianapolis	17	San Diego	12
New England	30	New Orleans	27
NY Jets	20	Miami	9
Dallas	31	Washington	10
Oakland	23	Arizona	20
Denver	41	Philadelphia	16
Tampa Bay	20	NY Giants	3
Kansas City	17	Seattle	6

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12TH OF OCTOBER 1998
FROM 4:30 P.M. TO 6:30 P.M.

MATCH-MAKING AT
THE AMMAN CHAMBER OF INDUSTRY

Meet representatives of German companies with business - interests in the fields of:

- Water (supply, wastewater treatment, groundwater, transportation) Metal packaging, Re-refining of used oil
- Construction equipment
- Laboratory equipment & scientific technical supplies
- Oil & gas services & products
- Earthmoving & agricultural equipment
- Drilling equipment & tools
- Refractory products
- Educational & marketing services
- Food industries
- Ceramic industries
- Construction industries & materials

Please contact the Foreign Relations Department at the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) or the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce (DIHT) to participate in the event.

Tel.: 4643001
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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Graham says he will not raid Leeds

LONDON (AFP) — New Tottenham manager George Graham insisted Monday that he will not return to Leeds United and raid his former club for players. There has been widespread speculation that Leeds' South African captain Lucas Radebe and Dutch international striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink will follow Graham to White Hart Lane. "If you look at my record, in the past I haven't gone back to my former clubs for players," Graham said Monday. "I'm a great believer when I go to a new club that I want to give everybody there a chance to prove their value to me," he told the Evening Standard.

Gullit must sell before he can buy

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Newcastle chairman Freddie Shepherd suggested Monday that manager Ruud Gullit will have to off-load some of his squad if he wants to bring in new faces at the English Premiership club. Gullit challenged the Newcastle board to produce the cash to rebuild his squad after watching his side being hopelessly outplayed in Sunday's 3-0 defeat at reigning champions Arsenal. The former Chelsea boss said: "I have the players I want all ready to come in. They are in the fridge, if you like, but it's up to the board now." But Shepherd highlighted the size of the current playing staff, saying: "There are no spare lockers left at St James's Park and there's no room left on the team bus."

Matthaus doubtful for Euro qualifiers

MUNICH (AFP) — Bayern Munich's Lothar Matthaus could miss Germany's opening Euro 2000 qualifiers after tearing his right thigh muscle in their 2-2 draw with Borussia Dortmund here on Sunday. The 37-year-old World Cup veteran would have been substituted but Munich had used all their subs and he simply waited for time to run out. Germany's qualifiers are against Turkey on October 10 and Moldova four days later.

Padres advance for 1st time in 14 years

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — The San Diego Padres advanced to the National League Championship Series for the first time in 14 years Sunday, using a brilliant effort by Sterling Hitchcock to outlast Randy Johnson and the Houston Astros 6-1.

The Astros acquired Johnson to get them to a World Series. But he lost for the second time in six days, leaving Houston still in search of its first post-season series victory.

San Diego, which had not been to the NLCS since 1984, the year of its only World Series appearance, won the best-of-five first-round series 3-1 and will face the Atlanta Braves beginning Wednesday night.

Jini Leyritz continued his October heroics with another homer and San Diego broke it open in the eighth with a two-run triple by pinch-hitter John Vander Wal and a two-run homer by Wally Joyner.

The Astros remained winless in five post-season series, allowing a pivotal sixth-inning run with a pair of miscues and failing to score in the seventh after putting runners on first and third with none out.

Johnson again pitched just well enough to lose as Hitchcock, who began the year in the bullpen and whose 9-7 season was inconsistent at best, baffled the Astros. Hitchcock struck out 11 over six innings, allowing only one run and three hits without a walk.

The Astros made a serious attempt to end their post-season drought by acquiring Johnson from the Seattle Mariners moments before the July 31 trading deadline. While Johnson helped Houston to the NL Central title, he lost for the second time in the series, giving up just two runs — one earned — and three hits in six innings with a walk and eight strikeouts.

Johnson lost his fifth straight post-season decision since winning twice for Seattle in the 1995 Division Series against the New York Yankees.

Hitchcock, bypassed for a start in Game Three in favor of Kevin Brown, was as dominant as the Padre ace who struck out 16 over eight innings to defeat Johnson in the series opener.

Hitchcock was untouchable in the first three innings, retiring all nine batters with seven strikeouts as many of the Astros failed to connect on off speed pitches outside the strike zone.

Leyritz opened the scoring with a lead-off homer in the second, belting a full-count pitch from Johnson 422 feet to left field for his sixth career post-season homer and third of the series. A seventh-inning homer by Leyritz lifted

San Diego to a 2-1 win in Game Three and his ninth-inning blast tied Game Two before Houston came back to even the series.

San Diego's second run came with ample assistance from Houston. Left fielder Moises Alou and shortstop Ricky Gutierrez failed to communicate on a two-out fly ball by Greg Vaughn that landed between them and was generously scored a double. Alou glanced at Gutierrez, who appeared to hesitate in pursuit, and the ball fell despite a sliding attempt by the outfielder.

Houston appeared to be out of trouble when Ken Caminiti hit a routine ground ball to third base, but Sean Berry threw wildly past first baseman Jeff Bagwell as Vaughn scored.

Vaughn's double snapped a streak of 12 straight batters retired by Johnson, who settled down after allowing the home run to Leyritz and a walk to Chris Gomez in the second.

Houston scored its only run in the fourth. Craig Biggio stepped in front of a pitch to become the first Astro to reach base and hewent to second on a single by Richard Hidalgo. Derek Bell grounded into a double play, but Jeff Bagwell came through with a run-scoring single to centre.

Bergkamp fires Gunners, Redknapp rescues Reds

LONDON (AFP) — Former Italy international Pierluigi Casiraghi scored his first goal for Chelsea but England star Jamie Redknapp rescued Liverpool with a late equaliser in a 1-1 draw at Anfield on Sunday.

In the day's other English Premiership match, Arsenal strikers Dennis Bergkamp and Nicolas Anelka rediscovered their goalscoring form as the reigning champions crushed Ruud Gullit's Newcastle 3-0.

Casiraghi's 10th minute strike was not just his first goal for the team he joined for a club record £5.4 million (\$8.5 million) in the summer, but also his first in all competitions since February.

Chelsea, who had suffered embarrassing 5-1 and 4-2 defeats at Anfield in the past two seasons and have not won the fixture since the Premiership began in 1992, attacked the Merseyside giants from the outset.

A goal seemed inevitable and it came after just 10 minutes when Roberto Di Matteo launched a superb pass from deep inside his own half and Casiraghi controlled the ball on the half-volley, took the ball round the on rushing David James and calmly angled the ball into an empty net.

Liverpool were unable to create anything at this point, and only a Robbie Fowler cross-shot wide of

the far post with Michael Owen closing in threatened to get them back into the game.

But the home side began to impose themselves towards the end of the first period as Jamie Redknapp and Oyvind Leonhardsen battled to regain control in the midfield.

Fowler was proving to be the Reds' most potent threat and he had a 20-yarder that was agonisingly close and then a snapshot on return from Jason McAteer's cross that cleared the bar.

But it was Redknapp who floppily grabbed the equaliser Liverpool's more confident second half performance deserved when he bent a 25-yard free kick into the bottom left corner of Ed de Goey's net seven minutes from time after Michael Duberry had brought down Fowler.

In the day's other match at Highbury, Bergkamp scored his first goal of the season and French youngster Anelka scored his second as the Gunners repeated

their FA Cup final success over the Magpies.

Dutch World Cup star Bergkamp added a second half penalty after Newcastle defender Nikolaos Dabizas was sent off for a second-bookable offence.

He had the perfect chance to complete a hat-trick when substitute Phillip Albert pulled him down in the box three minutes from the end but Newcastle 'keeper Shay Given brilliantly kept out his spotkick, diving to his right.

Bergkamp, the Premiership player of the year last season, missed a golden opportunity after just 10 minutes when he sliced a right-foot volley nearer the corner flag than the far post.

But he made amends on 21 minutes when Anelka cut in from the right to deliver a low through-ball and Bergkamp dodged Stuart Pearce's lunging challenge before burying his drive beyond Shay Given.

Bergkamp then turned provider in the 28th minute but there was more than a suspicion of offside as the Gunners went 2-0 up.

Marc Overmars played the ball over the top and there was no flag from lineswoman Wendy Toms as Bergkamp raced clear. He could have scored himself, but saw Anelka arriving in support and laid on an open goal tap-in for the Frenchman.

Arsenal goalkeeper David Seaman was barely troubled as veteran central defenders Tony Adams and Martin Keown kept a tight grip on England captain Alan Shearer.

Newcastle's hopes of salvaging a result from the match effectively disappeared after they were reduced to two men when Dabizas was sent off after 65 minutes, conceding a penalty in the process.

The Greek defender was given his marching orders after bringing down winger Overmars and Bergkamp coolly converted from the spot.

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Eng. NASSER Al-Madadsh

Only Israeli movement can bring about accord — Palestinians

JERICHO (AP) — On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's arrival, a top Palestinian official said without Israeli concessions, her latest peace efforts "won't go anywhere."

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, speaking to Associated Press Television News (APTN) in the West Bank town of Jericho, also accused the Clinton administration of allowing Israel to drag its feet on living up to past accords.

"I hope Madame Albright will end this cycle — meeting and arranging other meetings, giving [Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu the extra miles — because this must stop and we must move to substance," he told APTN.

"We believe that without a clear-cut Netanyahu 'yes' to

the American initiative and all its components, I think we won't go anywhere," Erekat said.

The Palestinians earlier this year accepted terms of an American-authored plan for an Israeli troop pullback in the West Bank, but Netanyahu balked, citing security concerns. Talks in the United States last week apparently brought the two sides closer together, however.

Albright was to meet Tuesday — separately — with Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Her visit is meant to lay the groundwork for an Israeli-Palestinian summit in Washington sometime around Oct. 15.

Albright was to spend only two days in the region, but was

accompanied by mediator Dennis Ross, who will likely stay longer to try to coax the two sides as close to an accord as possible before any summit.

Israeli officials had no immediate comment on Erekat's remarks. Much of the country was shut down for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which lasts for one week, but main commemorations were Monday.

However, Netanyahu has consistently said that no deal is possible without better security cooperation from Arafat's Palestinian National Authority. The Palestinians say even diligent efforts cannot provide total protection against attacks on Israel by Islamists.

On Monday's holiday, the Palestinian lands remained

sealed off, as they have been for much of the time since a series of Jewish holidays beginning with the New Year on Sept. 30.

In imposing the closure, Israel cited security threats from the Islamic resistance movement Hamas, which threatened revenge after two of its top members were slain last month by Israeli troops who raided their West Bank hideout.

Hamas has killed dozens of Israelis in suicide bombings since 1994.

In the Gaza Strip, about 500 people staged a rally to demand the release of Palestinian prisoners held by Israel. Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, attended, but did not address the crowd.



WEST BANK CLOSURE: A Palestinian man looks at an Israeli soldier patrolling in the West Bank city of Hebron on Monday. Israelis on Monday celebrated the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, despite fears of attacks, the day passed uneventfully, with the Palestinian lands remaining sealed off. The West Bank stayed quiet too, even Hebron, where there had been clashes on the previous five days (AP photo)

Palestinians blame Israel for prisoner death

GAZA (R) — A Palestinian official on Monday blamed Israel for the death of a Palestinian who had spent 10 months in jail for illegally entering the Jewish state.

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights said Ahmad Asfour, 23, died in an Israeli hospital on Sunday. The group demanded an investigation into the circumstances surrounding his death, saying it doubted the Israeli version.

A spokeswoman for Israel's prison authority said Asfour died from wounds sustained when he tried to hang himself in his cell.

Asfour had arrived in the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip from Yemen earlier this year to

visit his family.

After entering Israel without a permit, he was jailed in Beersheba prison for six months at first, and then for a further four months, said Hisham Abdul Razek, Palestinian minister of state for prisoner affairs.

The prison's authority spokeswoman, Orif Messer-Harel, said Israel kept Asfour, who she said was a citizen of Yemen, in detention while it looked for a country to take him.

Messer-Harel said, "to deport him to Yemen was impossible because we feared for his life because returning prisoners to countries with which we do not have relations, in particular

Arab countries, can put their lives in danger." Abdul Razek said Israel should have handed Asfour to the Palestinian National Authority.

"The Israeli authorities kept him in jail for an extra four months and refused to hand him over to us after he had finished his term... therefore Israel is obviously responsible, no matter how he died," Abdul Razek told Reuters.

Five hundred protesters, waving flags and photographs of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails, marched through Gaza on Monday, demanding Israel release the prisoners.

Abdul Razek said Israel still held about 3,400 Palestinians.

The minister said the release

of prisoners would be discussed along with other outstanding issues from the interim peace accords in a meeting between Palestinian and Israeli officials and U.S. envoy Dennis Ross beginning on Tuesday. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright is due to arrive in the region on Tuesday in a bid to finalise an agreement between Israel and the Palestinians over a long-delayed Israeli troop pullback from the West Bank.

"Our message to the Americans is that they should practise some pressure on Israel to honour the agreements regarding the release of all Palestinian prisoners," Abdul Razek said.

Taleban's supreme leader warns Iran of 'serious steps'

ISLAMABAD (R) — The Taleban's supreme leader told Iran on Monday that no foreign power had ever subdued Afghanistan and vowed to take "serious steps" if Tehran "interfered."

Mullah Mohammad Omar's headline statement was broadcast on the Taleban's Shariat Radio as a U.N. envoy held talks with Iranian leaders to try to defuse a war of words between the Sunni Muslim militia and its predominantly Shiite neighbour.

"If this [Iranian] interference continues, then our people would take serious steps," the radio, monitored in Pakistan, quoted Omar as

saying in a statement.

Lakhdar Ibrahim, an Algerian diplomat, was sent to the region by foreign ministers of a "six plus two" contact group of Afghanistan's neighbours plus Russia and the United States to try to cool the row, which began last month.

After earlier talks in Abu Dhabi with Ibrahim, Wakil Ahmad, a senior Taleban official, said the militia did not want war with neighbouring Iran and was looking forward to hearing Tehran's views on ways to ease tensions.

"The war, if it happened, God forbid, would not be in the interest of either Iran or Afghanistan," Ahmad told

reporters in Abu Dhabi. "I do not think there will be a war."

"We have met Lakhdar Ibrahim in Abu Dhabi by chance [and talked about] the crisis. But the real talks would be when he returns from Tehran," Ahmad said.

Iran massed tens of thousands of troops on its borders after nine Iranian diplomats went missing and were later found killed when the Taleban overran the opposition bastion of Mazar-e-Sharif in a summer campaign to tighten its grip on the country.

Omar said the nine Iranians were conducting "espionage" and added: "Iran interferes in our inter-

nal affairs blatantly and we have and reserve the right to take measures against it."

The Taleban leadership has acknowledged that its fighters killed the Iranians and has promised to catch and punish those responsible but refuses Iran's request that it make a public apology and hand over the killers.

The Taleban have accused Iran of numerous violations of its airspace and of arming and supplying its opposition foes, most of which have been routed in a campaign that has increased the Taleban's control of the country to around 95 per cent.

Iran has accused the Taleban of ethnic reprisals against minority Shiites of the Hazara ethnic group in its takeover of opposition areas in the centre and north of the country.

Omar repeated the Taleban's demand that it be recognised as the legitimate government in Kabul by virtue of the spread of its control and its imposition of strict Islamic law after years of anarchy and factional warfare.

"When a government brings stability and peace, then its recognition should be automatic," said Omar, whose administration is recognised only by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The U.N. seat is occupied by Burhanuddin Rabbani, whose government was toppled when the Taleban, which comes from the southern Pashtun ethnic group, seized power in 1996.

Ahmad said the Taleban had asked Ibrahim to travel to Kabul, but he refused, saying he had not been authorised to do so.

A U.N. travel ban imposed for security reasons prevents any visit to Afghanistan.

The Taleban spokesman said he was in the UAE for talks on the situation in Afghanistan. On Monday he met Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Hamdan Ben Zaid Al Nahayan to convey a verbal

message from Taleban leader Omar to UAE President Sheikh Zaid Ben Sultan Al Nahayan.

The U.N. pulled out of Afghanistan in August after one of its Italian military staff was shot dead in a Kabul street and wants security guarantees and improved working conditions for the resumption of a major relief operation.

Most private aid agencies withdrew from Afghanistan earlier that month after a row with the Taleban, who wanted the predominantly Western agencies to live in a derelict college and to pay the million dollars required for its renovation.

Tradition goes high-tech in Gulf

DUBAI (AFP) — Hunting has been a part of life in Gulf Arab countries for centuries. Until the oil boom, it was the main and sometimes only source of meat for those living in this desert region.

Since then skyscrapers have shot up, roads have replaced sand tracks and meat comes covered in plastic and bar codes rather than fur or feathers.

But traditions die hard in the Gulf Arab states and even the youth, more used to a life of mobile phones, four-wheel drives and shopping malls, have taken to it with enthusiasm.

With the new generations have come new ideas, trends and equipment that might have made their grandfathers raise an eyebrow or two.

This is tradition, but it is high-tech tradition and unless there are flashing lights and lasers today's hunters are unlikely to be interested.

A few decades ago, all a hunter needed in the Gulf was a falcon, a good horse or camel and a few days of supplies. Nowadays no self-respecting hunter goes out with less technology than it takes to launch the space shuttle.

The falcon, around which hunting is still based, remains something of a national emblem, found on everything from corporate logos to bank notes.

But camels and horses have been replaced by utility vehicles, the sun has been replaced with global positioning systems and worries about the weather are taken care of with weather monitors.

Nor are people restricted by daylight. Night vision binoculars mean that hunting is now a 24 hour activity. These binoculars start at a cou-

ple of hundred dollars but can go much higher depending on the sophistication.

Indeed, so complex has falconry become that it has spawned a mini-industry supplying accessories and equipment to the modern-day Gulf hunter.

Telecom companies have stepped in with the latest satellite phones costing as much as \$7,000 for the latest model. For smaller wallets there are radios at about half that price.

Either way, the desert is a large place noted for its lack of signposts and landmarks, so for many this sort of high-tech communications has become an essential part of the pastime.

"There is a fascination for gadgets and a passion for hunting in this region," said Brad Wood, owner of what he says is the only company in the Western hemisphere to rely solely on the sale of falcons and accessories.

His U.S.-based company, Northwood Ltd., considers the Gulf one of its hottest markets and has set up a partnership with a Saudi firm in Riyadh, selling 500 different types of accessories through shops, mail order and the Internet.

"Once technology companies found the Arabs would spend several thousand dollars on technology for their falconry they really zeroed in on this market," Wood said, holding up a \$1,500 falcon tracker.

"This is to track the falcon back after an unsuccessful chase, when the falcon can fly several kilometres away," he said.

Wood also sells some more unusual gadgetry including a remote control trampoline-style pigeon launcher, which looks as bizarre as it sounds.

The pigeon is placed into the miniature trampoline, which folds over the top of it. A remote controlled spring mechanism then launches the doomed bird into the air for the falcon to chase.

"I like this new technology, it has made everything easy," said Mohammad, a young Emirati. His father, who said he had been hunting with falcons for 30 years, nodded his approval.

The more technology the better. It can only make things easier and it means we nearly always catch our prey," said Ali, another Emirati, as he stroked his personal falcon perched on his wrist.

But despite all these innovations there is still one crucial necessity missing for some would-be hunters. Somewhere to hunt.

Hunting has been banned in most of the United Arab Emirates in the south of Gulf after fears that the sparse local wildlife was being wiped out.

Nor is the ban likely to be lifted soon. "It is possible, but not in the near future. We just don't know enough yet about the local wildlife to make a judgement on that," the head of the UAE's avian research centre Frederic Launay said.

So instead of domestic hunting, people are going abroad, mostly to Pakistan and Morocco, although countries like Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are also starting to become popular. There are also new markets open-



ing up in further flung places like southern Africa. South African safari companies in particular are hoping for business from the Gulf.

With safari packages costing anything from a few thousand to tens of thousands of dollars it is a business worth pursuing.

But some say the idea will never catch on because the local tradition of catching small game is too deeply ingrained.

"People want to do traditional hunting. That means with falcons for bustards, desert hares and stone curlews. Some have switched to safaris and some have tried things like pheasant shooting, but most have stuck to traditional hunting," said Martin Jones, a British supplier of falconry equipment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Libya sends team for U.N. talks

TUNIS (R) — A Libyan legal team has left for New York to discuss with U.N. officials arrangements for a trial in the Netherlands of two Libyan suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner. Libya's official news agency JANA reported on Monday. The agency, received in Tunis, said the Libyan team would seek guarantees that the two suspects would not be transferred to the United States or Britain from the Netherlands. It did not specify when the team left and did not name its members.

'SLA can withdraw without mediation'

BEIRUT (AFP) — If the Israeli-aided South Lebanon Army (SLA) intends to withdraw from a Christian enclave it controls north of the Israeli-occupied zone, it should do so without waiting for foreign mediation, Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bweiz said Monday. "If [SLA chief Antoine] Lahad really wants to withdraw unconditionally, he can do it without waiting for mediation, international or otherwise," Bweiz told a press conference here. "If he withdraws completely and quickly, and if he vows that it is a true and total withdrawal, Lebanon will exercise its responsibilities," he said. General Lahad told a meeting of local officials Saturday that he had "no objection to studying a solution for the Jezzine enclave along the lines of the Kfarfalus solution," an SLA spokesman told AFP.

Earthquake jolts Iranian province

TEHRAN (AP) — An earthquake with a 5.3 magnitude rocked several towns in western Iran on Monday, damaging houses but causing no deaths, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. The quake damaged at least 100 houses in the town of Darreh Shahr and surrounding villages in Ilam province, the agency said. It was the second quake to hit the town in less than 24 hours. On Sunday, Darreh Shahr was jolted by a 4.8 magnitude quake, it said.

Students call for freedom of the press

TEHRAN (AP) — A student committee on Monday called for freedom of speech in Iran and criticised the arrest of several writers and journalists. The Committee of Students Defending Political Prisoners accused a Tehran court of using "illegal and undemocratic methods" when it questioned five writers last week for trying to revive a writers' association. It warned in a statement that these measures "would lead only to a security crisis." It did not elaborate.

Pumpkin sets new world record

PORT ELGIN (AP) — A pumpkin the size of a small car has weighed in at a new world record of 496 kilograms, according to organisers of an Ontario pumpkin festival. Gary Burke of Simcoe, Ontario, grew the behemoth in his backyard and entered it Saturday in the Port Elgin Pumpkinfest. The world record had been held by Nathan and Paula Zehr of Watson, New York, who in 1996 grew a pumpkin weighing 431 kilograms. "Every day, I'd get home and spend a couple of hours looking after it," Burke said. During its peak growing period, the pumpkin gained almost 18 kilograms a day.

Crowd besieges opening of major Van Gogh show

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thousands of art lovers braved dank weather Sunday to view the brilliant colour and vibrant emotion of Vincent van Gogh's paintings as the largest Van Gogh exhibit in the United States in 25 years opened. "I'm interested in the arts," said Ryan Downs, explaining why he had waited outside the National Gallery of Art since 1 a.m. to get a free pass for the 72-painting show. Downs, a 33-year-old engineer from Fairfax, Virginia, led a procession of about 600 people into the museum when it opened at 11 a.m. and more than 4,000 people paraded past the paintings throughout the day.

Researcher finds secret to happiness

LONDON (R) — Watch lots of television soaps if you want to be happy, and don't even think of having an affair. After spending 11 years analysing thousands of questionnaires, Oxford Professor Michael Argyle believes he has found out what makes people happy. Argyle told the Sunday Telegraph newspaper that the key was to have one close relationship and a network of friends. Marriage was one of the most important guarantees of happiness, especially for men, and the least happy in society were those who are divorced or separated, his research found.

Former French sports tycoon releases rap single

PARIS (AP) — Former politician and sports tycoon Bernard Tapie, convicted for rigging a soccer game, is pleading his innocence — only this time in a French recording studio. Tapie, who recently dabbled in cinema, has recorded a single — "Life's Great" — with French rap star Doc Gyneco. It's due for release on Oct. 23. In the single, Gyneco asks Tapie, former owner of the Olympique Marseille soccer team, whether it's true he paid the Valenciennes team to throw a crucial game in 1993. "Are you kidding?" replies Tapie, who spent six months in jail in 1997. "I love those Valenciennes people."

Fergie begins career as chat show host

LONDON (AFP) — The Duchess of York — nicknamed "Fergie" — on Monday began a career as a daytime television chat show host, dedicating the programme to her mother who died two weeks ago. During the hour-long episode of "Sarah... Surviving Life" the duchess said she felt qualified to present the show as she had suffered "huge downs" in her life. "You might wonder why I qualify to present a show about surviving life," she told viewers of Sky One, who broadcast the episode. "After all, I have led a very charmed life — there have been huge ups but there have been some huge downs."

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